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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 2010

'Bitter blow for local people this Christmas'

The Vale Magistrates Court is to be axed

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

THE Vale Magistrates Court is to be closed – despite a six-month battle by local politicians to keep it open.

Vale MP Alun Cairns told The GEM he was "aghast at the decision".

It means that another facility – along with the driving test centre and the cinema in recent times – will be lost to the town and the wider Vale.

The court had been under threat since June 6, when a Ministry of Justice consultation paper was published, recommending that the court close and proposing that cases be heard in Cardiff instead.

The Vale Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, described the decision as "a devastating blow for Barry".

She said: "It shows complete disregard of the strong representations made to keep the court, situated in the largest town in Wales, open and continuing its excellent local justice services, which include a family court and domestic violence court.

"The petition I submitted of 1,000 signatures opposing the closure demonstrated the vast amount of support for these services.

"Confirmation of the court's closure is a bitter blow for the people of Barry and the Vale this Christmas."

The decision was condemned by Vale MP Alun Cairns, who helped to present the court's case for staying open to the Ministry of Justice.

Mr Cairns said: "The decision to close the court is wrong. I have told the Minister so in no uncertain terms.

"As a result, he has agreed to meet me again to discuss the matter and I have asked David Taylor, chairman of the magistrates' bench to join me.

"I want to ensure that the Minister appreciates the full consequences.

"I know there is a need to save money but there are plenty of other ways to cut back."

Mr Cairns said he was concerned there would be a number of consequences which might flow from closure.

"This will mean more pressure in time and money on the police. It runs the risk of losing local magistrates and flies in the face of local justice.

"On a map, Cardiff may seem to be a short distance away but they are very different communities. Barry serves the whole of the Vale.

"Local magistrates, charitable groups and I worked together to prepare the case supporting the court. I am aghast at the decision and will not let it rest."

Plaid Cymru candidate for the Vale, Dr Ian Johnson, said he was "saddened and disappointed" by the news.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

All Saints Church-in-Wales Primary School held its Christmas concert recently, entitled 'Manger Mouse'. which explains the four smiling rodents above. (See next week for more photos).

'Illegal immigrants on board school coach' proves to be a case of Chinese whispers!

RUMOURS that two illegal immigrants had stolen away inside the luggage compartment of a coach carrying Barry pupils home from a day trip to France were a case of Chinese whispers!

Year-7 youngsters from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School took part in a 24-hour trip to France, leaving on the Friday night and returning on Saturday evening.

Mr Phil Whitcombe, the headteacher, told The GEM: "The pupils enjoyed a visit to Lille. It was a chance to speak some French and go to the local Christmas market."

On the way back there was a delay in Calais while a passport irregularity was resolved, but it was a second delay, after the two buses had been driven onto the boat, that got the rumour mill going.

Mr Whitcombe explained that rumours claiming illegal immigrants had hidden in a coach luggage compartment were a case of "Chinese whispers".

He said: "The sailing was delayed for about 40 minutes.

"Two men had got under the chassis of a truck, and the port security were trying to track them down.

"An ambulance was called because one of the men was hurt trying to escape."

So an eventful weekend, but not quite the story some people in the town might have heard.

Mr Whitcombe added: "The party finally arrived back in the town just half an hour late."

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Questions to council

WHEN will the Vale Council act in Cowbridge and confirm that the British Legion Club site in the main car park will be removed?

When will the cattle market be cleared up and resurfaced?

When will the vacated lower school site be cleared?

When will the litter in Aberthin Road and new school area be cleared?

When will the grounds of Old Hall be cleared of rubbish from trees?

Brian Swain, Cowbridge

Our thanks to the volunteers at 'Meals on Wheels'

I AM writing to express my thanks to all the volunteers who give up their free time to deliver meals to the elderly in and around the Cowbridge and Llantwit Major district.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish them all a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Again, many thanks for your dedication – you are all very much appreciated by me, local community services and our clients.

Jan Williams
(Meals on Wheels co-ordinator, Cowbridge)

'No budget, no plan for the sports field'

I FEEL honoured that councillors Jeff James and Gordon Kemp could spare a few brief moments from their relentless quest to provide a sports field for Rhoose Point to reply to my questions.

Perhaps they could elaborate on their letter further: "*The sports field was due to be provided by Cofton …*".

Would this be the 2008 deal whereby Cofton got to build houses on the employment land?

If it is, then a mere seven years elapsed between building stopping on Rhoose Point in 2001 and the council clinching the deal. Rome was not built in a day!

Our relentless, if not dynamic duo, have also missed the point about the changing room money. It is money towards a *changing room*, not to be spent on fixing other things.

Once that money is gone on a CCTV survey of the drains or consultant fees or lawyers, it shows that:

1. The council has no budget or timescale to deliver a sports field. That means there is no credible plan. The priority goes from 'Must Be Done' to 'Would Be Nice', which in this world means never.

2. The protection given by the legally-binding s106 agreement to the undeveloped fields around the Western Quarry, between Rhoose Point and Fontygary Caravan Park is lost.

Cofton-By-Another-Name want this for another housing estate, and on past form, they will get what they want.

Finally, making developers pay towards public art is council policy. Spending that money is very much 'Jeff and Gordon's plan'.

Andrew Bailey, Rhoose

Plea for lost hearing aid

MY friend lost her hearing aid in Llantwit Major, at the switching on of the Christmas lights.

If, by some miracle, anyone has found it, please would they ring me on 01446 796849, or 07804 624795?

Annie Paine, Llantwit Major

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'Laws that apply only to Wales should be made in Wales'

ON March 3 next year, there'll be a referendum to decide if Wales deserves a stronger voice.

Over the last decade, the Assembly has gradually grown in stature and confidence. But the system for making laws that affect Wales is slow and complicated.

A Yes vote will help take Wales forward by speeding up the system of decision-making to allow Assembly Members to get on with the job.

For example, it has taken three years to get permission from London to ensure that all new homes are equipped with fire sprinklers to stop needless deaths in house fires.

Even though our democratically-elected Assembly had supported the proposal, it first had to be approved by civil servants, members of the House of Lords and MPs before it could become law.

Time and money is being wasted jumping through needless hoops.

Even though we are from different parties, we have come together to stand united behind a simple principle – ***laws that only apply in Wales should be made in Wales.***

That's what the referendum on March 3 is about and we need your help to get a Yes vote. Please support the cross-party campaign by looking online at *www.yesforwales.com* and sign up to help

Jane Hutt AM (Labour),
Chris Franks AM (Plaid Cymru)
Andrew R T Davies AM (Conservative)
Eluned Parrot (Liberal Democrats)

Broadband and the rural debate

IT is interesting to see that Plaid Cymru and Chris Franks AM have, albeit belatedly, joined the rural Broadband debate.

This has been perhaps the most discussed topic at Colwinston Community Council over the last four years, during which time our Vale representatives, Jane Hutt AM and Alun Cairns MP, have been instrumental in getting the problems of rural accessibility addressed throughout the area.

As a result, Colwinston is, we understand, about to be connected to the fibre optic feed which runs adjacent to the village along the A48, and also to benefit from the upgrading of the BT exchange in Bridgend.

Unfortunately, other rural areas are not quite so fortunate and in some cases a satellite connection, for which grants of up to £1,000 are available might be the only immediate solution.

The problem remains that Cable operators and some other service providers such as British Gas are not interested in rural areas anywhere in the UK, simply because the cost/revenue equation does not balance.

This is why The Welsh Assembly Government and the Westminster Parliament need to provide support if business interests, as well as private individuals who work from home and now rely on Broadband, are to compete successfully.

For their part, BT are notoriously difficult to contact and when this is achieved conflicting answers, explanations and promises come from different people.

This is incredibly frustrating and it is only through Alun Cairns' most recent efforts that we have been able to get credible and consistent answers and a better idea as to what improvements we might expect and when.

However, BT/Openreach still need to make the final connections to Colwinston and I think it fair to say 'that we shall believe it when we see it'.

Coun P Graham-Woollard,
(Chairman, Colwinston Community Council)

'THANKS TO GEM'

GRATEFUL thanks for the splendid GEM coverage of the St Cadoc's paintings launch evening.

It was invaluable to us, and much appreciated.
Ian Fell.
Director, Media for Heritage, Llancarfan
(pp Sam Smith, chairman of the Conservation Committee).

Dealing with the deficit

AS far as I understand it, Keynes said that money should be saved in good times so that it can be spent in bad; the suggestion is that this did not happen and that money was just spent until it had all gone.

The longer any problem is left unaddressed, the worse the cure is likely to be – but this does not mean that the cure can be avoided indefinitely.

Whether it will result in social unrest remains to be seen; let us hope not.

When we hear about 'paying off the deficit', it is worth remembering that no-one is suggesting actually paying off anything at all.

The best we can expect is that the government overdraft will increase at a slightly slower rate. This overdraft is currently the equivalent of about £15,000 for every man woman and child in the country.

In 2002 it was about £5,200 and it is increasing now at £50 a week each. Until the deficit becomes a surplus, the government will have to pay interest on the whole lot.

R Bradshaw,
Cowbridge

St Athan forum 'right behind' the MoD college

I FELT that I should write as there continues to be some confusion about the future of the Defence Technical College (DTC) at St Athan.

The facts are clear; not only does the Ministry of Defence (MoD) still wish to see the centralisation of technical training for the Army, Navy and Air Force on a 'Tri-Service' basis, but St Athan also has a very good chance indeed of once again being selected to deliver this training.

I attended an excellent meeting of the St Athan Forum led by our Assembly Member, Jane Hutt AM, which included MoD personnel, key Welsh Assembly Government civil servants, officers and elected members from the Vale Council and representatives from town and community councils. Those present from the MoD confirmed that a decision should be made by March 31 2011, and they were left in no doubt by everyone else represented at the Forum that we were all united in our determination to do everything possible to ensure that St Athan was selected as the preferred location for the new DTC.

It was clear that not only would it be hugely costly and time-consuming to start again somewhere else, but also that a great deal of public money had already been spent.

St Athan remains exceedingly well placed to deliver this vital technical training for our Armed Forces, and it is very good news indeed that we in Wales are united in our determination 'to make it happen'.

Coun Rhodri Traherne,
(Vale cabinet member for economic development and regeneration)

Questions for the Barry Consortium

THE Consortium in Barry is pressing for approval for 'The Quays' plan for the Western Dock.

They state (The GEM, November 11) that proposals have been changed from the original outline, to include a "detailed application for a major road link" through the heart of the scheme, providing a new connection between the town and Barry Island.

Quite. That means they have to supply traffic flows, a traffic impact assessment, and a description of how they will limit impacts of through-traffic in terms of speed and hazards, especially to children.

How will the leisure uses of the Waterside strip and green areas be separated from the traffic? How will the problems of peak holiday day-trippers to the Island be handled – both the traffic queues and the on-street parkers completing their journey on foot?

What of the round-Wales coastal path which also needs a link Why no proposal from the Consortium? What about the Cycleway links to Barry Island and to the Knap?

Welsh policy requires routes to cyclists for a key destination like Barry Island, and a segregated path suitable for youngsters and less confident cyclists is clearly desirable.

So why no proposal from the Consortium?

As the article states, they've worked (in secret) with the council's planning team. But under environmental impact assessment legislation, such cosy relations are out-of-date.

They are required to provide full information for public consultation and put all documents in the public domain.

Their closing of the Ash path, which has annoyed many of us, should have been included in those documents.

People would then have told them it is a right-of-way because of regular unhindered use for more than 20 years.

Many people who wanted to walk to the island for the fireworks display, on November 5, were annoyed and disappointed to find they had to walk all the way around, as the gates of the Ash Path had been welded shut by the Consortium.

So let's see a step back and their agreement to be open and democratic, following the impact assessment law, before the final decisions are taken

Keith Stockdale,
(Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth co-ordinator)

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

I WOULD like to say a special thanks to all who helped at the 'Friends and Neighbours' Christmas party held at St Helen's Hall.

Despite the bad weather conditions, the party went with a bag. Thanks also go to our supporters, Barry Round Table, Barry Rotary and Western Power who sponsored the event and made this party possible.

Maggie, the chef, cooked us a wonderful meal.

We are also grateful to Barry ATC Squadron (372) who helped during the afternoon and to Santa for putting in a special appearance and giving out the 'goodies'.

Lastly, thank you to our special volunteers who made the afternoon possible by giving up their time to make such a wonderful day.

Gay Fifield, Barry
(Friends and Neighbours secretary)

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 23)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
16 Thur	01.42	7.5	14.19	7.7
17 Fri	02.54	7.8	15.24	7.9
18 Sat	03.49	8.1	16.13	8.3
19 Sun	04.31	8.5	17.01	8.7
20 Mon	05.15	9.2	17.44	9.2
21 Tues	06.02	9.4	18.26	9.5
22 Wed	06.47	9.7	19.11	9.6
23 Thur	07.30	10.0	19.53	9.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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DISMAY OVER CUTS THREAT AT ST ST DONAT'S

Barry parents will fight to keep 'special course' at the Atlantic College

by TIM CHAPMAN

THE family of a teenager who suffers from a life-threatening illness are devastated that a course he attends at Atlantic College might be the victim of cuts.

In recent weeks, The GEM has publicised the story of Kane Garland, aged 17, who is just one of 53 people in the UK registered with Shwachman Diamond Syndrome (SDS) in which youngsters suffer recurrent infections, due to an abnormally low number of a particular white blood cell.

His mother, Sharon Takata, is holding a fundraising evening at the King William public house on Sunday, December 19 at 7pm for the national charity, Shwachman Diamond Support UK.

Sharon and husband Wayne are dismayed that 'the integrated development programme' course that Kane attends might come to an end in July because of Welsh Assembly Government cuts.

Sharon explained: "The course has really worked well for Kane, helping to make him more self-sufficient.

"He has learned practical skills such as cooking, ironing, and budgeting which would help him in the future if he moved into his own place.

"Kane has also had additional tuition in maths and English."

The course also included work placements which Sharon says are vital in preparing Kane for part time employment as an adult – full time work may be a little too demanding for him.

Sharon is on a business, administration and IT course herself at Barry College, and on Thursday, December 2 raised the subject of the Atlantic Course during a question and answer session with the Vale MP, Alun Cairns.

"I asked whether he had heard about the programme at Atlantic College having its funding stopped in July.

"He said that because the budget was being cut they have to make cuts in Wales and it is one of those things which had to be cut – he appeared so dismissive."

Wayne said that if the course is axed, the family would feel that "Kane's educational needs did not matter".

Wayne explained: "If he does this course, he might have the work experience that might help him to be employed in the future. Surely it is better to help him get a job than sit in his bedroom."

APPEAL

Sharon said that if an appeal by Atlantic College to keep the course running failed, she and other mums and dads were likely to form a 'parents' support group' to fight the decision.

Neil David, the programme manager at Atlantic College, explained that the course had run since 1982, developing the social and independent living skills of youngsters. He and colleagues are now waiting to see whether it can be saved.

Local MP Alun Cairns, who is also a regional AM, insisted that he was sympathetic to Kane's plight.

"This is the very case that I mentioned in my GEM column last week. It shows that whereas the Welsh Assembly Government plans to fund students to get degrees, special needs courses are being cut. We need to ask: who has the better capacity to fund their education?

"My heart goes out to Sharon Takata and her son. These types of courses are not being cut in England.

"It is right that WAG can decide their own priorities, but I hope that people see the whole picture when they hear the rhetoric around free prescriptions, fees and hospital car parking.

"I have taken up the matter with the Assembly's Education Minister and wasn't impressed with his answer, so I have gone back to press the case further."

A Welsh Assembly Government Spokesperson said: "Existing funding arrangements for residential provision under work based learning will cease in July 2011, but we have tendered for new work-based learning courses, including for 16 to 19-year-olds.

"We are currently working with Atlantic College to explore whether the college can continue to offer residential provision, funded by the Welsh Assembly Government, through alternative arrangements."

On a lighter note, Sharon appealed to as many people as possible to support the fundraising evening at the King William this weekend.

She said: "We have got lots of items to auction and raffle, including a 32" LCD television given to us by the Rogers family at the Witchell public house, gold diamond ear-rings courtesy of JKL Jewellery in Holton Road, gifts from Boots and items from High Street businesses too. Everyone is welcome."

If you would like to donate an item for auction or for more information on the evening – entrance £2.50 – Sharon can be contacted on 01446 739193.

Resident's concern that developments will cause gridlock

by TIM CHAPMAN

A Barry resident who fought against the development of Cemetery Approach, said he believes the town will be in a state of gridlock if major housing developments get the green light.

Mr Bryn Evans, aged 70, said that the planning committee of the Vale Council must give "very serious thought" to the effect of building 177 houses at White Farm, 2,000 homes at the Waterfront and 71 houses east of Pencoedtre Lane.

He argued: "We have already got gridlock on roads leaving and entering Barry and these developments will make it a lot worse."

Mr Evans said he had particular concerns about the scale of what was planned at White Farm.

"This development alone will add a further 300 vehicles to the area.

"The sewerage system is Victorian and cannot cope. The loss of natural drainage won't help areas that are already prone to flooding."

Mr Evans also pointed out that at a time when the population was being increased, facilities such as green areas, the driving test centre, the magistrates' court and the cinema were being lost.

He added: "The fear is we will be left with a massive overbuild and gridlock in Barry."

Mr Evans campaigned against development at Cemetery Approach, because he wanted the picturesque tree-lined avenue preserved for people making journeys to their final resting place.

His mother, father, brother and great grandson are all buried at the Barry Cemetery.

Persimmon Homes East Wales has emphasised that the development at White Farm has been subject to thorough public consultation through both the UDP allocation and consideration of an outline planning application.

A spokesman said: "*The Planning Inspectorate and the Local Planning Authority have determined on both occasions that the development of part of the site for housing is entirely acceptable.*

"*Survey work has also been carried out to establish the impact of increased traffic, and results have concluded that the existing highway network in the vicinity of the site is capable of accommodating the anticipated seven per cent increase.*

"*To prevent any risk of flooding, surface water – running off the site – will be captured and attenuated so that its discharge into the Coldbrook will be controlled at greenfield runoff rates.*"

Any local representations over White Farm must be put to the planning committee by December 20.

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Murgh Handi Lazeez £6.10
Chingri Maas £7.95
Supreme Mango Chicken £6.10
Nizami Handi £6.10
Laal Maas £5.95

ALL TIME FAVOURITES
Chicken Tikka Masala £5.70
Chicken/Lamb Jalfrezi £5.70
Chicken/Lamb Pasanda(N) £5.95
Chicken/Lamb Makhani(N) £5.95
Mirchi Masala £5.95

ALL TIME CLASSICS
Chicken £4.85
Lamb £4.95
Prawn £5.10
King Prawn £7.95
Chicken Tikka £5.60
Vegetable £3.95
Korma (N)Very mild & sweet
Curry/Madras/Vindaloo Traditional
Bhuna Classic favourite
Dupiaza with coriander, onion & peppers
Rogan Rogan josh sauce with tomatoes
Pathia Hot, sweet & sour
Dansak Hot, sweet & sour with lentils
Saag Cooked with spinach
Chana Cooked with chick peas
Balti Cooked in a balti sauce with onions

BIRYANI DISHES
Cooked with fragrant basmati rice with delicately spiced chicken, lamb, prawn or vegetables. Served with vegetable curry sauce.
Royal Special Biryani £7.25
Kachchi Biryani (New) £6.95
Maharaja Biryani (N) £7.50
Chicken/Lamb/Prawn Biryani £5.95
Murgh Tikka Biryani (N) £6.85
King Prawn Biryani £8.50
Sabzi Biryani (V) £4.95

VEGETARIAN DISHES
Miloni Sabzi Handi (V) £4.25
Subzi Masala (N) (V) £4.50
Paneer Pasanda (N) (V) £4.50
Subzi Paneer Jalfrezi (V) £4.50
Mattar Paneer (V) £4.50

SIDE DISHES
Palak Paneer £2.30
Aloo Gobi £2.20
Aloo Palak £2.20
Palak Bhaji £2.20
Aloo Baingan £2.20
Mushroom Bhaji £2.20
Bhendi Bhaji £2.20
Aloo Zeera £2.20
Chana Masala £2.20
Tarka Daal £2.20
Chips £1.40

NAN BREADS
Freshly baked from our clay oven
Plain Nan £1.60
Tikka Nan £1.95
Peshwari Nan £1.80
Garlic or Cheese Nan £1.80
Keema Nan £1.80
Tandoori Roti £1.40
Paratha £1.95
Chappati £1.00

RICE DISHES
Plain Rice £1.60
Pulao Rice £1.85
Mughlai Pulao £2.75
Keema Pulau .2.230
Mushroom Pulao £2.30
Special Pulao £2.20

CONDIMENTS
Papadom £0.50
Spicy Papadom £0.60
Fresh Mix Raitha £1.25
Fresh Mix Salad £1.25
Onion Salad £0.60
Mint Yoghurt £0.60
Mango or Coconut Chutney £0.65
Mixed or Lime pickle £0.65

) Chilli rating
(N) Contains Nuts
(V) Vegetarian

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'DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT' CLAIM...

'Time Rhoose brought its community council back'

says local Assembly candidate

RECENT arguments over the future of Rhoose Point have highlighted the lack of a community council in the village – says a local Assembly candidate.

Dr Ian Johnson, the Plaid Cymru candidate for the Vale, told The GEM that he believes the situation leads to a "democratic deficit" when local residents want to challenge the Vale Council

Dr Johnson believes that the recent disagreement about the right to 'call-in' Vale Council cabinet decisions to scrutiny committees shows the difficulties faced by local residents who do not feel represented by their local councillors.

Dr Johnson said: "Rhoose is the only part of the Vale which does not have a community council. It was abolished around 20 years ago.

"Since then, the village has grown significantly with the new Rhoose Point development.

Dr Johnson said that Rhoose residents had decided to abolish the community council, and he believed that the residents might well wish to revisit that decision.

He said: "Since then, the population of Rhoose has grown by nearly 50 per cent with the development at Rhoose Point.

"As it stands, their only local representatives are the Vale Council Leader, Coun Gordon Kemp, and the chair of the council's planning committee, Coun Jeff James.

"This means that residents who don't agree with Vale Council decisions are left frustrated, with no other elected representative in the village to turn to."

Dr Johnson continued: "Across the Vale, hard working town and community councillors give a great deal back to their community, listening to their constituents and representing their views and concerns.

"This was, and remains, a decision for the people of Rhoose, but given the changes to the village over the past few decades, I believe that residents should consider whether the small cost of a community council, offering a wider series of views on improving the village would be a positive investment in the future."

Recent Vale Council figures show that Rhoose now has 2,697 households. This means that there are only four communities with more in the Vale.

These are Barry (18,609), Penarth (10.627), Llantwit Major (3,986) and Dinas Powys (3,554).

Cowbridge with Llanblethian (2,497), for instance, has a long-established town council with 15 members.

There are community councils at Llanmaes (235 households) and Llandow (425).

Santas take over Penarth!

MORE than 200 people took part in a 3k Christmas fancy dress festive fun run in aid of three Welsh charities at Penarth seafront, on Sunday last.

Diabetes UK Cymru, Marie Curie Cancer Care and St John Cymru all Wales benefited from the event.

Children took part in a fancy dress competition, which was judged by Santa in the Italian Gardens, with prizes handed out for the best costumes.

Spectators enjoyed carols from the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band, mulled wine, mince pies, and a raffle provided by Penarth businesses.

In addition, pupils from Westbourne School and others from Penarth set up a cake stand to raise money for the three charities.

End of the road for magistrates court

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

He said: "We used to have a court in Cowbridge, which also closed, and we are now left without a single court in the whole Vale.

"The purpose of local justice is that it is held in the community. That has now gone by the wayside, with defendants, witnesses and solicitors having to travel to Cardiff and Bridgend.

"This will impact upon legal services in Barry and when witnesses are organisations like the Vale Council, they will have to waste much of their working day travelling back and forth to Cardiff for prosecutions.

"This is not a good use of taxpayers' time and money, especially as millions of pounds have been spent in recent years on bringing the court up to modern standards, including disability access and more secure entry points for defendants.

"This is another facility in Barry which has been closed down and re-located to Cardiff."

The court is situated in the Court ward and the local councillor, Chris Elmore said news of the closure was "a kick in the teeth for local people".

EFFICIENT

The Coalition Justice Minister Jonathan Djanogly argued that reform of the court estate would deliver a modern, efficient justice system with victims and witnesses at its centre. He said £22million would be invested in modernising courts.

Mr Djanogly pointed out: "Access to justice is not just about access to buildings. It's about the type of justice delivered, decent facilities for victims and witnesses and efficient use of the system."

Mr Djanogly said that the court estate has not kept pace with the changing nature of society or with the demands that modern society places on the justice system.

"An estate of more than 500 court buildings is not now necessary or sustainable, nor is it a reasonable expense for the taxpayer.

"We are closing the worst courts in the estate – so we can concentrate our limited resources on the best ones. We are investing in the court estate with new buildings and with refurbishment of facilities.

"We have listened to the significant points made by respondents to the consultation. As a result we have decided not to close 15 courts which were included in the consultation."

The Minister added: "There will be longer journeys for some to their closest court, but we should not operate courts just to shave minutes off a journey that many will never need to make."

In Wales and England 93 magistrates' courts and 49 county courts will be closed. Of the courts consulted on in Wales, 16 will close and two will be retained.

Cutting IT by Sue

Sue and Kayleigh would like to welcome Charlotte as the new apprentice to the salon

A Merry Christmas to all our clients and thanks for your continued support now that we have moved to our new premises at

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To book your appointment please call

01446 722633

CCTV's seven arrests

CCTV, working under the umbrella of the Safer Vale Partnership, assisted with seven arrests in the week ending December 12.

It contacted the police on 28 occasions, with two arrests made for alleged shoplifting at Holton Road on December 6.

Two arrests were made concerning a burglary at Princess Street, Barry, on December 8; while two further arrests were made for alleged shoplifting at Holton Road on December 9.

Finally, one arrest was made at Broad Street for alleged public disorder.

Five are arrested in police raids at Barry

POLICE raided addresses in Barry early yesterday morning (Wednesday) and made five arrests.

A South Wales Police spokesman said that a "significant amount of drugs and money" had been found at several properties across Barry.

More than 35 police officers took part in 'Operation Albatross'. Detectives from the Barry Drugs team, CID, dog handlers, specialist officers, financial investigators and the local Neighbourhood Policing Team carried out a number of warrants at addresses in Barry and Penarth in a series of raids starting at around 6.30am.

Four men aged 27, 29, 30 and 39 and a woman aged 26, have been arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class B drugs. .

The Commander of the police in the Vale and Bridgend, Chief Superintendent Carl Davies, said: "The warrants executed are a result of the force listening to community concerns and acting upon them."

Detective Sergeant Julian Kerslake from the Barry drugs team, said: "This warrant demonstrates that we do act upon information received and I encourage anyone with concerns to contact South Wales Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

Island plans backed

PROPOSALS by a new group based in Barry, to help transform Barry Island into a leading visitor resort, have been backed by Coun Anthony Ernest, cabinet member for tourism and leisure on the Vale Council.

"This year has seen a massive rise of around 20 per cent in the number of visitors to the Island, and this reflects the continuing investment that the council is putting into making Barry Wales' leading seaside resort.

"I look forward, as do my colleagues, to hearing further firm details of the proposed investment in tourism facilities for Barry Island, and can assure the new company that they will have the support of my tourism team in implementing their projects."

PUPILS ORGANISE CHRISTMAS FAYRE FOR NOAH'S ARK

PHOTOGRAPHS by **IAN DIXON**

BRYN HAFREN senior students recently held a school fayre in aid of the Noah's Ark appeal for the National Children's Hospital for Wales.

The girls designed the stalls and made cakes, pictures and jewellery, as well as organising raffles, providing face painting, hair and nail care, and making sure that the chocolate fountain was working well!

Regeneration projects in Barry get go-ahead after funding award

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A £1million scheme to regenerate Thompson Street in Barry is among 16 projects to receive total funding of £3.86 million from the Welsh Assembly Government's local 'Regeneration Area Programme'.

The applications were approved at a meeting of the Regeneration Area Board last week.

Other projects to receive approval include: the renovation of Barry and Holm View Leisure Centres; refurbishing the 12 community centres in the town that are run by volunteers; and improving the playgrounds at Iolo, Bassett and Porthkerry parks.

The majority of the projects in this round of funding were proposed by the Vale Council; however, an application by Newydd Housing Association for funding to purchase land which can be used for affordable housing was also approved.

The Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration, Jocelyn Davies, said that it was good news for the town and proof that the regeneration programme is already making a real difference.

"Many of the projects will be completed this financial year, so the improvements to the town will become apparent very quickly."

Dr Ian Johnson, Plaid Assembly candidate for the Vale, said he was glad to see that a variety of different projects had received funding.

He said: "There have been successful bids for improvements in Iolo Park, Bassett Park and Porthkerry Park; for Holm View Leisure Centre and to improve business and community training facilities.

"This investment is well overdue and is excellent news for Barry."

He did sound one note of caution: "My only concern is that the successful bidder in almost all of these projects is the Vale Council.

"This money is there to develop new businesses and regenerate the town, not fill in the gaps and subsidise what the council should have been doing anyway.

"I want to be sure that community groups and businesses in Barry are having the right opportunities to access these grants and that this is the priority with the remaining £4.5m of grant monies in the Barry regeneration fund."

Angela Jones-Evans, the Conservative Assembly candidate for the Vale, said that as regeneration got under way there had to be a "clear and realistic" vision for the town.

"We need to ask ourselves - what do we want Barry to be in the future? Will it be a centre for tourism and if so, what kind?

"How do we want to develop the commercial centre? What sort of businesses do we want to attract to the town? Where should new housing be sited and what kind of housing should it be?

"Then we can work out how we are going to reach that desired destination. By determining a vision at the outset we can then develop a strategy that will ensure that the regeneration of Barry is successful and adopts a joined-up approach.

"We need to avoid the possibility of the investment looking like a set of separate initiatives with no clear direction or purpose.

"In order to achieve that vision it is important to engage with and listen to stakeholders - local traders' organisations, individual businesses, groups such as Pride in Barry, tourism groups, and our young people who hopefully will want to stay in Barry to live and work.

"It is imperative there is private sector involvement in the projects. With private sector investment in addition to the WAG funding we can achieve really good value for the money."

Funding has been allocated to the following projects:

Barry Leisure Centre – £300,000.

Barry Gateway Approaches – Waycock Road £54,450.

Barry Community Centres refurbishment – £162,100.

Iolo Park improvements – £204,490.

Bassett Park improvements – £400,000

Porthkerry Country Park improvements – £95,227.

Holm View Leisure Centre – £100,000.

Converting Workshops to Office Space, BSC Innovation Quarter – £98,000.

Workshop improvements Vale Enterprise Centre £28,648.

Refurbish facility at Barry Fire Station to provide a community training facility and support for training activities – £37,650.

Replace and upgrade CCTV in Buttrills and Baruc Wards – £160,000.

Thompson Street Public Realm improvements – £1,084,092.

Cadoxton House ground source heat pump – £75,885.

Complete Northern Part of the Innovation Quarter £677,177.

Acquisition and refurbishment of Castleland renewal area office, Holton Road – £162,500.

Affordable housing development, Merthyr Street – £220,000.

Five are arrested after Penarth pub incident

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to an incident which occurred at the Railway Hotel, Plymouth Road in Penarth, shortly after 11pm on December 12.

Officers were called to deal with a fight which had broken out and the police say considerable violence was directed towards officers. Five men were arrested for alleged violent disorder.

Police are now appealing for any witnesses to the incident, or for any information about the behaviour of the arrested men before they arrived at the Railway Hotel.

In addition, police would like to hear from anyone who may have witnessed other disturbances at the same premises on the two previous nights.

Vale police commander, Superintendent Jay Dave, said: "This was an extremely unusual and violent incident. A number of our police officers were injured while dealing with it and some required hospital treatment. This type of behaviour will not be tolerated.

"We would like to hear from anyone who may have witnessed this incident, or who may have seen these people at other premises before they arrived at the Railway Hotel."

The five men arrested include a 36-year-old man from Barry, two men aged 18 and 41 from Tonyrefail, and two men aged 23 and 26 from Hensol.

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THEATRE ROYAL PLANS ON SHOW

Hafod Care's consultation over 'Extra Care' facility

THE developers behind plans to build the Vale's first 'Extra Care' facility are to hold a public consultation in Barry next week.

Hafod Care has exchanged contracts on the former site of the Theatre Royal, and has submitted plans to provide 42 purpose-built one and two-bedroom flats, along with communal facilities for older people.

It is now inviting members of the public to go to the Barry Memorial Hall between 2pm and 5pm on Tuesday, December 21, to discuss the project.

Copies of the plans will be available on the day, along with artist's impressions of how the scheme may look.

The architects, and members of Hafod Care's development team, will be available to talk through the plans, and answer questions.

Robert Wathen, managing director of Hafod Care, said the development team was keen to get the public's feedback on the proposed new facility.

"We are very excited about this project, as it would be the first Extra Care development ever to be built in the Vale, and would bring a range of new facilities for the community's elderly residents.

"We are aware that the project has generated a lot of interest from local residents and community groups.

"We are keen to have the opportunity to discuss it with them face-to-face and answer any questions they may have."

There's not a dry eye in the house at school's Nativity!

The bossy king with Mary and Joseph and the moon.

NURSERY and Reception children at Rhws Primary School gave an outstanding performance in their Nativity concert for parents and the children in the school.

'The Bossy King' was a charming story of a very bossy monarch who hears about the new King born in Bethlehem and sets out to find him. When he eventually meets the baby Jesus, the Bossy King decides to change his ways.

The musical involved children from the nursery and reception classes; in singing, speaking parts, dancing, and all dressed in colourful costumes.

There wasn't a dry eye in the house and the concert certainly left the audience crying out for more!

KB

Back row: Liam Curran, Bethan Williams, Alex Hopekins and Bethan Curran. Front row: Ben Ewington, Isobelle Hopkins, Mollie Hopkins, Declan Ewington and Caitlin Williams.

Shoppers help club get in the swim with welcome donations

ON a snowy and cold Saturday on November 27, Barry Amateur Swimming Club, which has members from all parts of the Vale, spent the day packing shoppers' bags at Morrisons in Barry, with the aim of raising much-needed funds.

With a small but merry band of swimmers, family and friends spending anything from one hour to all day packing shoppers' bags, a big thank you must go to the shoppers and staff of Morrisons for the fantastic support in donating £766.

A big thank you goes to Llinos Goodland, who did a fantastic job, staying nearly all day.

Barry Amateur Swimming Club is always looking for new members – so if you would like a trial, telephone Mrs Heulwen Cooper on 01446 733784.

The club swims at Barry Leisure Centre on Monday, Friday and Sundays and Cardiff International Pool on Monday, Thursday and Sundays.

For more information, also look on the Barry Amateur Swimming Club website.

TW

IN BRIEF

Merthyr Dyfan candle-lighting

FRIENDS of Merthyr Dyfan cemetery, Barry, will hold their third Christmas candle-lighting event on Sunday, December 19, between 9am-4pm, with a local acapella choir singing between 1pm-3pm.

There is no charge, but donations gratefully accepted.

Christmas Eve

FAMILIES and children will be welcomed to the annual 'carols by candlelight' on Christmas Eve at the church of Merthyr Dyfan, in Merthyr Dyfan Lane, Barry, from 3.30pm.

The service will be taken by Father Robert Parish, with singing led by the church choir and organist Mary Smith.

On Christmas morning, there will be carols and sung Mass at Merthyr Dyfan Church at 8.45am.

Further information from Father Robert Parish, on 01446 735943.

PACT meetings

***BUTTRILLS PACT**, The Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, on December 16 at 6.30pm.*

***PACT** crime prevention surgery, December 16 between 10am and 4pm outside St Fagans public house on Windsor Road.*

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Keep up to date with all your council information over the festive period by visiting:

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

or call Contact OneVale on:

01446 700111

Our Christmas opening hours are:

	Friday 24 December	Saturday 25 December	Sunday 26 December	Monday 27 December	Tuesday 28 December	Wednesday 29 December	Thursday 30 December	Friday 31 December	Saturday 1 January	Sunday 2 January	Monday 3 January
Contact One Vale	08:00 - 17:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30 - 16:30	08:30 - 16:30	08:00 - 18:00	08:30 - 17:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
In emergencies both Contact OneVale (01446 700111) and the Social Services Emergency Duty Team (029 2078 8570) are available 24-hours a day.											
Main Reception (Civic and Dock Offices)	08:00 - 16:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30 - 17:00	08:30 - 16:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Benefits and Council Tax	08:45 - 16:45	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:45 - 16:30	08:45 - 16:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Housing	08:30 - 16:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30 - 17:00	08:30 - 16:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Public Protection	08:30 - 16:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30 - 17:00	08:30 - 16:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Cashiers/Finance	08:45 - 16:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:45 - 16:30	08:45 - 16:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Leisure Centres	Closing 17:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	Closing 17:00	Open as usual	Open as usual	Open as usual	Closing 17:00	CLOSED	Open as usual	Open as usual
Libraries	Closing 17:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	Open as usual	Closing 17:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED

You can also email C1V@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or text C1V, then your message to 60066

There are no changes to your refuse or recycling days over the Christmas period.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU

WE WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

'RESPONDING TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS IN WALES'

Assembly budget will spell out education (and health) priorities

AS I enjoy the many Christmas school, choir and church concerts and fairs leading up to Christmas, I have the opportunity to reflect on the year and look towards the challenges of 2011, not least as a result of Government policy changes in Westminster affecting us here in Wales.

Having the task of developing a budget for Wales which takes on board a role in reducing the UK Government deficit, but also seeks to respond to the social and economic needs of people in Wales, has been an enormous responsibility.

Our priorities were agreed much earlier this year, to protect schools, skills and vulnerable people.

We have sought to do that and the draft budget is now being scrutinised by the Assembly committees and partners in local government, the NHS, the private and voluntary sectors and the Wales TUC.

The debate on this budget will be held in January, leading to the final budget vote in early February.

Education has been at the forefront of our priorities, protecting funding for schools, which is reflected in the local government revenue settlement, as well as funding for further education and work-based learning through our Pathways to Apprenticeships scheme – Skills for Economic Renewal.

I am visiting Gibbonsdown Children's Centre and Oakfield School this week to assure them that funding for the pioneering Flying Start programme is protected and the full roll-out of the 3-7 year olds foundation phase in nursery and primary schools.

This funding is over and above the money that goes to the local education authority for schools.

We are also keeping the educational maintenance allowance for 16-18 year olds in Wales, due to be abolished in England.

With the vote last week in Westminster narrowly approving the UK Government's plans to allow universities to raise their fees to £9,000, the major news of the past fortnight has been the decision by the Welsh Assembly Government to help university students living in Wales, by meeting the extra cost from such a rise in England or Wales.

In his statement to the Assembly on November 30, the Education Minister, Leighton Andrews AM, said: "The message today is clear. Students ordinarily resident in Wales going to university in 2012-13 will be no worse off than if they had gone to university this year."

This will apply to all students who live in Wales, whether they choose to study in Wales or any other part of the UK.

We have been clear that higher education should be on the basis of the individual's potential to benefit – and not on the basis of what they can afford to pay.

There are a number of important changes to help students from 2012. The income threshold for repayment will rise from £15,000 to £21,000. Part-time students will also be able to access a tuition fee loan, depending on the intensity of their course.

This news was widely welcomed, not just by young people and their parents in Wales, such as my constituent Caelum Davies, who said: "My family and I are happy with the fantastic news from the Welsh Assembly Government! It's a big financial relief for us!"

Professor Malcolm Prowle from Nottingham University also welcomed this decision.

He wrote on the public finance blog that the Welsh Assembly Government seems to be aware that:

"*Having an educated workforce is essential for the Welsh economy and tripling university fees would have a huge impact on the number of Welsh young people going to university.*

"*...The Welsh Assembly Government did not go for the cheap headline of protecting the NHS, but chose its priorities carefully.*"

However, we are seeking to safeguard the NHS by making it the only budget line which is not being reduced next year and by increasing the allocation to 'NHS Delivery' which is spent on our health services at the sharp end.

Last week, I was pleased to welcome Edwina Hart AM, the Health Minister to Barry Hospital to announce an extra £110m for the NHS this year, to help meet the pressures which are very evident with the cold snap.

I also visited Barry Hospital on Monday to welcome the new elderly care assessment unit being put in place with the local team of GPs, Vale Social Services and the voluntary sector as well as the consultants, OTs, physiotherapists and nurses who provide such excellent care at Barry Community Hospital – all coming together for a more holistic, effective assessment of the needs of elderly people in the Vale.

You will soon see changes at Barry Hospital, with a new reception area opposite the front doors, as well as these new services taking off for frail, elderly people.

So we are investing in the NHS and developing services which meet the needs of people in the community with the health teams working ever more closely with social services, the voluntary sector and families.

Season's greetings to everyone in the Vale of Glamorgan!

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Jane Hutt AM

(Assembly Minister for business and budget)

Jobless tops 7% in Barry ward

THE highest unemployment in the Vale is to be found in the Castleland ward in Barry where 7.3 per cent of those eligible to work are seeking jobs.

This figure has more than doubled since last January when the figure stood at 3.2 per cent.

The next highest figures are also to be found in Barry – in Buttrills where the figure is 5.6 per cent and Cadoc which is 5.5, but both of these wards have seen a slight fall in overall figures since the beginning of the year.

Most areas of the Vale have seen unemployment fall over the period January to October.

The lowest unemployment is in Peterston Super Ely where just 1 per cent are seeking work. Wenvoe stands at 1.1 per cent – which is a drop from 1.7 per cent last January.

Other areas where unemployment stands at less than 2 per cent are Llandow-Ewenny at 1.2 per cent; Cowbridge with 1.5 per cent, St Bride's with 1.6 per cent and Sully with 1.9 per cent.

SENIOR LAWYER CALLS FOR RETURN TO TRADITIONAL PROFESSIONAL VALUES

Beech & Co Lawyers, commercial property and business law specialists of Cowbridge have merged with Peter Davies Solicitors of Cardiff and James & Bulteel of Pontypridd. The three firms have joined together under the umbrella of a new business venture called Glamorgan Law.

"This is a great move for us" said Richard Beech. "Glamorgan Law represents a great opportunity for us to offer our rapidly growing client base in South Wales and elsewhere a full range of services. Each member firm of Glamorgan Law will retain its individual identity and speciality focus but will be able to call on the skills of the other parts of the new business when needed. It's good for us and good for our clients".

Peter Davies, President of the Cardiff Law Society, said: "We have built a strong reputation as one of the leaders in the field of litigation and dispute resolution in South Wales in the last decade. As a result of our mergers this year we can now meet all our client's legal needs from offices throughout South Wales, including property services such as house buying and selling, as well as enhancing our existing expertise in areas such as family law, employment law and wills, probate and trusts. Richard Beech, who has unrivalled commercial property and business law expertise adds a cutting edge to our services for business clients."

He continued: "In the current economic climate it is understandable that many law firms are anxious about the threat from major players such as banks and supermarkets who want a piece of the legal market and are looking to move into traditional areas of legal practice such as house conveyancing and wills and probate work. It is true that some, particularly smaller high street practices may not survive but we are confident that we are in a very strong position to meet the challenges and thrive in the years ahead. I have no doubt that there will remain a robust demand for lawyers in traditional law firms who are able to combine good value with excellent service delivered by properly trained lawyers."

Jill Bulteel, resident partner at Glamorgan law, Pontypridd, added: "Clients justifiably expect solicitors to behave in a decent, honourable, professional manner and to deliver a high level of skill at reasonable cost. Not all of our profession has covered itself with glory in the past couple of decades. We believe that a return to traditional professional values is essential to combat the big battalions such as the Co-op and Tesco law and that is what Glamorgan Law is all about."

glamorganlaw

Glamorgan Law

Brings together under one umbrella three well established firms - Peter Davies Solicitors, Beech and Co and James and Bulteel

The new enterprise offers businesses, individuals and public bodies a comprehensive range of services from offices throughout the region

For further information contact Richard Beech, Jill Bulteel or Peter Davies at

www.glamlaw.co.uk

Cowbridge office: 01446 771 742 Richard Beech | Cardiff office: 029 2022 5472 Peter Davies
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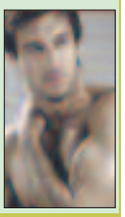

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Fundraiser is planned to get Tobias a breathing pacemaker

ABOVE: Tobias enjoying a short, but cold break just outside the hospital.

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

FUNDRAISERS for Tobias Lunnon have set themselves the huge new target of £20,000 to pay for a breathing pacemaker.

They hope it will make life that little bit more bearable for the six-year-old youngster who was paralysed in a road traffic collision, and remains in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge with his mum Fiona at his side.

Chief fundraiser Tracey Smith explained: "Our aim is to do a massive new fundraiser in the New Year to get Tobias a breathing pacemaker which costs £20,000.

"It will help him off the tracheotomy and means that when he goes to school he will only need one nurse rather than two."

Tobias attends a school in the hospital and keeps in touch with his friends at Ysgol Gwaun y Nant in Barry via a Skype device attached to a laptop computer paid for by fundraisers in Barry and the rest of the Vale.

Tracey said: "I know this is a very big target, but we're going to try our hardest. With the help of The GEM, Steve Powell and Bro Radio, local band Brother Steve, and others, we think we can go a good way to the total.

"Even if we raised just half of it – £10,000 – it might mean we could get the remaining amount from a funding source."

People continue to help Tobias and Fiona in all sorts of ways.

Tracey said: "Part of the new fundraiser will involve auctioning items that have been kindly given to us.

"We have a rugby ball signed by the Welsh captains who went on the Mount Kilimanjaro climb. Another item is a signed Cardiff Blues rugby top, and we've got a golf cap autographed by the Ryder Cup golfers.

"One man won £100 on the horses and told us he wanted to give it to Tobias!

"Natalie Braithwaite of British Gas has raised £1,200 and is arranging to have presents delivered to Tobias which include a DVD/TV and a globe that can be projected onto the ceiling."

Tobias has also managed to get outside the hospital building in the last few days.

His mum Fiona said: "Tobias got out in the cold and was wrapped up like an eskimo against the winter wind!

"We joked that he looked like Rudolf the red nose reindeer!

"His new chair should be arriving next week, and that will have a proper head support, and will be easier to push than the armchair version.

"Tobias also went on the tilt table and managed to go up to 90 per cent. In fact, he asked the physiotherapists to put him up the whole way – he likes to push himself a little bit further."

Fiona is also heartened by the fact that Tobias is doing so well educationally.

"He recently completed an online maths test at the hospital school and was a year ahead in his result. He is really proud of his abilities and often comes out top of the class."

Fiona added: "Thank you to everyone who has kindly taken the time to send Christmas cards to Tobias. He eagerly looks forward to his mail and enjoys seeing the cards.

"The hospital let him put up his Christmas tree early. Tobias and I want to wish everyone a truly magical Christmas."

The GEM will give more details on the new fundraiser in the New Year.

Cheques, payable to Tobias Lunnon, can be handed into Steve Nicholls Estate Agents at 15 High Street, Barry, CF62 7EB.

'Plans for Bosch site must be spelt out' – says Vale MP

THE Vale MP has claimed that development around the former Bosch factory is being delayed by uncertainty over development of a new business park at Cardiff West.

The Cardiff West scheme was being promoted by Cardiff City Council but it is now in doubt, with the council in the process of preparing a new development plan, after withdrawing the previous plan in April this year.

Mr Cairns believes that this uncertainty is having a knock-on effect on plans to attract new industry to the Bosch site further down the M4 from Junction 33, where Cardiff West, a business park, was proposed.

He explained: "The Welsh Assembly Government seems to have no plan at all for the land around Bosch.

"This is a key development site which is hugely important for the creation of jobs in the Vale.

"I went to Germany to meet Bosch directors and they said that they would be disposing of the site for development, which had community support, within 12 months of the closure.

"We are already six months into that but nothing is being done.

"There is no policy for Bosch because WAG is focussing on the Junction 33 development instead.

"The Vale is paying the price for the confusion and delays caused by Cardiff City Council and the Welsh Assembly Government."

Mr Cairns said he was writing to Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones asking him to spell out what plans they have for the Bosch site.

"We need them to be exploring the options now, but they are paralysed by indecision. It's time for action."

Recently, Mr Cairns met members of the Cardiff Commercial Property Forum to discuss both schemes.

A Welsh Assembly Government spokesman said: "We cannot comment on the Cardiff Development Plan as this is a planning matter.

"When it comes to the former Bosch site, we are working with the site's owners and the local authority to review all options available to explore any future potential use of the site.

"We recently met representatives from Bosch, the Vale Council and Bosch's nominated consultants for design and marketing of the site.

"It was agreed to set up a working group with Bosch's designers to consider and develop proposals."

A spokeswoman for Cardiff Council said: "Cardiff's Local Development Plan was withdrawn in April 2010 and work is now under way on the preparation of a new plan

"Therefore, Cardiff County Council has no current development plan proposals in place for a business park on land north of Junction 33 of the M4.

"The new LDP will set out a land use strategy for Cardiff and is anticipated to be adopted in 2014.

"Work is currently under way on preparing a 'preferred strategy' that is planned to be considered by Cardiff Council in October 2011."

Airport charge to use trolleys

A NEW 'improved' trolley service at Cardiff Airport means that it will soon cost £2 to use a baggage trolley.

Unlike the trolley parks commonly in use at supermarkets, that £2 will be non-refundable!

The new trolleys will be introduced today (December 16) supplied by the Newport-based company Airport Cart Service (ACS), which will supply and operate the trolley service.

Margaret James, quality and contracts manager at Cardiff Airport, commented: "Our aim is to improve the trolley service for those travelling through the airport, and to do this the existing trolleys need to be replaced.

"We're working with specialist company ACS Limited to offer our customers the highest quality product and service available."

Mrs James continued: "There is a cost associated with the improved service which must be recovered by ACS Limited."

Cardiff Airport will not be receiving any income from this fee.

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FOLLOW THE (Vale) LEADER!

New year promises change for councils

by Coun GORDON KEMP
Leader of the Vale Council

A NEW year is fast approaching, and with it a year of change for many councils: There has been much talk about shared services and partnership working, and the Vale is taking the lead in this area.

We have just agreed a 'memorandum of understanding' with Bridgend County Borough Council. This means in the future we could see more joint staff appointments, the sharing of specialist skills and joint procurement – leading to savings and efficiencies.

For the past year, our principal auditor has been jointly managing the Vale's and Bridgend's audit services.

We already also have the long-standing arrangement whereby Bridgend offers a crematorium service to the Vale.

Future plans for joint working projects will need to be supported by a business case demonstrating that they will produce savings and benefits, such as protecting and improving services.

New figures for the Vale bode well for the coming year – the Vale had the lowest absence figures of the 22 Welsh councils in the year 2009–10.

Vale staff absence rates, including schools, reduced further to only 4.2 days per employee in the six-month period April to September 2010.

The council introduced a new sickness management policy in 2008 and these figures are a testament to the hard work of everyone involved in the development and implementation of the policy.

Sickness absence has a dire effect on council services and finances, and we will work to maintain a low absence rate.

The council's annual 'Looked after Children Awards' took place at the end of November and we were pleased to welcome the deputy minister for Social Care, Gwenda Thomas.

The youngsters received awards for a range of achievements, including academic success, improved behaviour and sporting and artistic achievements.

The children and young people were joined at the event by their foster carers, their families, social workers and teachers.

Everyone enjoyed entertainment from pupils of Barry, St Richard Gwyn and Cardinal Newman Comprehensive Schools, including musical performances and street dancing. Well done to all the award winners.

Finally, may I wish everyone in the Vale of Glamorgan a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Inspiring Welsh school teacher's Oxford award

TEACHER Ceri Anwen James, of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, is one of eight winners of the inaugural University of Oxford 'Inspirational Teachers Award', thanks to a nomination by first-year Oxford student Ruth Pilcher.

Mike Nicholson, the director of undergraduate admissions at Oxford, said: "We started the award as a way of recognising the importance of school or college teachers as a particular source of encouragement and inspiration to students.

"There is a huge amount of hard work and dedication involved in securing a place at Oxford, and the submissions we received underscored how important a role teachers play in this process.

Ruth, now a student at St John's College, said in her nomination: "*My German teacher and form tutor, Miss Ceri Anwen James, was an absolute inspiration, educationally and personally.*

"*It was Miss James who encouraged us to apply to Oxbridge in the first place and she, more than anyone, helped with my application. As a form tutor, she was second to none.*"

The winning teachers will receive book tokens to use in their school or college, and a framed certificate signed by Oxford's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Andrew Hamilton.

Artwork's permanent home in town library

WELSH artist Charles Byrd has donated one of his automated machines to the Vale Council.

'A Maquette for a Futuristic Tower', will be permanently sited in the County Library, Barry. At the handing over ceremony, the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Colin Osborne, thanked him for giving the people of the Vale the opportunity to enjoy a piece of his art.

Charles Byrd is a self-taught painter, sculptor and kinetic artist. In the 1960s, he turned his attention to kinetic sculpture. His work is represented in many public collections.

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PULLING POWER OF THE GEM!

Hundreds enter our latest competitions

ABOVE: Mrs Williams receives her luxury hamper, courtesy of Chris White of Waitrose store, Barry.

IN the last few weeks, literally hundreds of people have entered GEM competitions, with the latest lucky winner being Mrs Doreen Williams from Llantwit Major.

Mrs Williams won a luxury Waitrose hamper full of Christmas goodies.

She said: "It was a lovely surprise – more so because I'd forgotten that I'd entered!"

Mrs Williams plans to have her family around for the Christmas Day meal and now has a few little extras to share.

GEM advertising executive Jan Irving said: "The response to the Waitrose competition was amazing. We had well over 100 people who entered – not just from the Vale and Bridgend, but also from Cardiff and the Valleys.

"Our other competition prize, for a meal for two in the Beech Tree Inn at Culverhouse Cross, also drew more than 100 entries."

The winner of the Beech Tree competition was Glynis Lewis, from Rhoose Point, who told The GEM:

"I'm delighted – I never win anything – until now that is!"

SPORTING ICON COLIN MEETS HIS HEROES!

REVIEW by PHILIP IRWIN

THE former world record holder for the 110-metre hurdles, Colin Jackson, has always had strong connections with the Vale and, as The GEM reported recently, he has just written his first book on athletics.

It was launched last Friday in Cowbridge, and profits from the venture are going to the 'Moses Project' – an educational project linking Ysgol Iolo Morganwg in Cowbridge with a Masai community in Kenya.

Now, some charity books are thrown together in a hurry, and can be pretty slim volumes, so the most important thing to get across is that this book, entitled *My Sporting Icons*, is a substantial piece of work, featuring thorough interviews with 12 great sporting figures – all athletes.

Sports fans, particularly those interested in the psychology of competition, will find plenty to ponder, not least because Colin Jackson has an analytical mind and he wants to compare his own thought processes under pressure with others who were at the top of their game.

Among the 12 are David Hemery, Fatima Whitbread, Don Quarrie, Daley Thompson, Kriss Akabusi (it's hard to stop him talking!) and Oscar Pastorius, and all have plenty to say.

Every conversation brings up something unexpected. He and Sally Gunnell compare the various injuries that they picked up, and I was certainly unaware that Jackson had needed seven knee operations during his career – and they worry about rugby players getting injured at the moment!

The book launch was in Oscars in Cowbridge, and when I arrived, Colin Jackson was nowhere to be seen.

It turned out that he had been hijacked by *Strictly Come Dancing* fans, asking for his thoughts on who would win this year.

For the record, he was undecided, but correctly predicted that Gavin Henson had gone as far as he could.

He still looks disgustingly fit and, when I asked if any of his sporting icons had 'gone to seed' he thought long and hard and said "none".

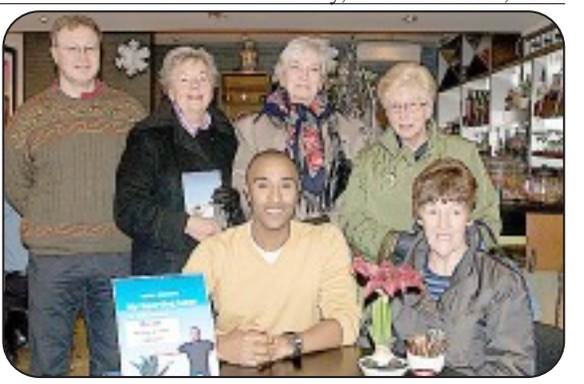
Apparently, David Hemery and Don Quarrie still weigh the same as when they were in their prime, while Fatima Whitbread has shed all the muscle that she needed for javelin throwing.

Many of them are still competing – Steve Backley on rowing machines, and Sally Gunnell over 10k races.

Whether you are an aspiring athlete or an armchair sports fan, you will find things to surprise or enlighten you..

A good cause - and a good Christmas read!

My Sporting Icons is published by Red Shoes Productions Ltd and is on sale at local bookshops and is due to be listed by Amazon.



Colin Jackson, pictured at his book launch with some of his Cowbridge fans! (Photograph by Aliye Mullen).

Island access: call for risk assessment

AS you reported, the road to Barry Island was closed for several hours on Saturday, November 20 and again on Thursday, December 2.

I was travelling by bus on December 2, and the passengers were set down by the Ship Hotel.

This was an inconvenience to me and the other passengers, as we had to walk across to the Island in cold, falling snow – but I realise that Cardiff Bus were doing their best to keep a service running.

As we walked by the accident site, all the emergency services were hard at work doing a difficult job in very upsetting circumstances.

My understanding is that when the gates were placed on Battery Hill, the Island residents were promised by ABP that in an emergency, these gates would be opened to provide access.

I believe there should be a risk assessment, led by the Vale Council, who should invite representatives of Island residents and traders, the emergency services, Cardiff Bus and APB to look at ways of reducing the risks and inconvenience caused to Island residents, traders and visitors in similar situations.

Bob Bowyer,
Barry Island

School choir sings

BRAINT ac anrhydedd oedd derbyn gwahoddiad o swyddogion Ysbyty Barri i ganu i'r Aelod y Cynulliad Jane Hutt ar yr 13 Rhagfyr. Roedd Mrs Hutt, y gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cynulliad Cymru, yn ymweld â'r ysbyty a'i chleifion. Diolchodd Mrs Hutt, i'r plant am eu canu swynol.

It was with great pleasure that the choir from Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc accepted the request from officials in Barry Hospital to sing for the Assembly Minister Jane Hutt on Monday, December 13.

Mrs Hutt, the Minister for Education, Children and Young People at the Welsh Assembly Government was visiting the hospital and patients. She commented on the children's excellent singing voices.

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PENARTH'S Neighbourhood Policing Team took on sub zero temperatures last week when they visited Caerleon Road in Dinas Powys with TREV – The Reassurance & Engagement Vehicle.

Neighbourhood Sergeant Paul Francis explained: "This is a Safer Vale Community Safety Partnership tool, which enables members to get into the heart of our communities and become more visible in key locations.

"The vehicle is ideal to tackle ASB hotspots, but can also be used for local surgeries and crime related initiatives."

Local neighbourhood officers PC Alison Davies and PCSO Michelle Griffiths led the team in conducting a survey among residents to assess local issues and determine what police, council, or housing officials could do to improve residents' quality of life.

Festive services

THIS Sunday, December 19, the parish of Penarth All Saints is holding a Nativity service for all ages at 10am in All Saints; a traditional Christingle service at 3.30pm in St Peter's Old Cogan; and the festival of nine lessons and carols at 6pm in All Saints.

Refreshments will be served after all these services. All are welcome.

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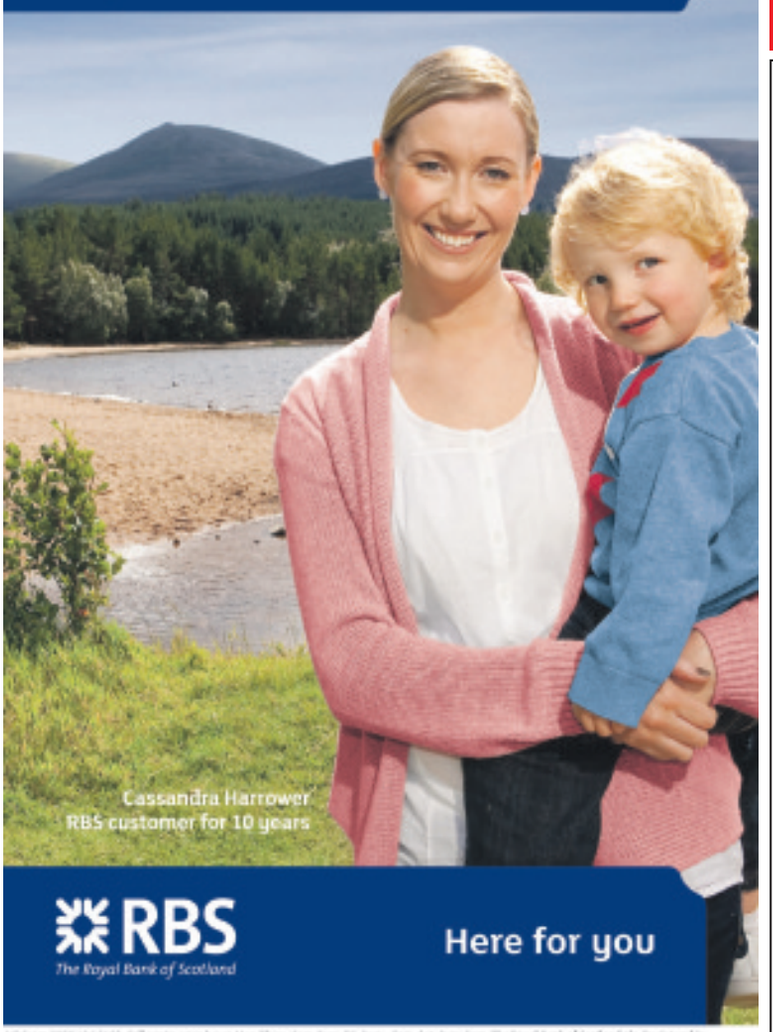

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MINT SPECIAL BIRYANI *(king prawn, chicken tikka, lamb tikka and boiled egg)*	£9.00
TANDOORI KING PRAWN BIRYANI	£9.00

TANDOORI MANSAHARI

TANDOORI CHICKEN *(half spring chicken cooked in our tandoori clay oven)*	£4.75
CHICKEN or LAMB TIKKA *(diced chicken or lamb cooked in the tandoori clay oven)*	£4.85
CHICKEN or LAMB SHASHLIC *(marinated with onion, capsicum and tomatoes then cooked in our clay oven)*	£5.75
SALMON SHAHSLIC *(marinated with onion, capsicum and tomatoes then cooked in our clay oven)*	£6.50
TANDOORI KING PRAWN *(marinated and cooked in our tandoori oven)*	£8.50
TANDOORI MIXED GRILL *(pieces of chicken, lamb, sheek kebab, tandoori chicken, tandoori king prawn cooked in our tandoori clay oven)*	£8.75
TANDOORI MINTED MIXED *(salmon, king prawn, lamb tikka and chicken tikka, cooked in our tandoori clay oven)*	£8.95
SALMON TIKKA *(marinated in selected herbs and spices then charcoal grilled)*	£6.50

BALTI DISHES

BALTI CHICKEN or LAMB	£5.50
BALTI KING PRAWN	£8.90
BALTI PRAWN	£5.55
BALTI CHICKEN or LAMB TIKKA BHOONA	£5.95
BALTI KING PRAWN BHOONA	£7.95
BALTI TROPICAL	£7.95

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CHICKEN or LAMB TIKKA DANSAK	£5.50
CHICKEN or LAMB TIKKA PATHIA	£5.50
CHICKEN or LAMB TIKKA BHOONA	£5.50
CHICKEN or LAMB PESHWARI	£5.85
KORAI KING PRAWN	£8.50
KORAI CHICKEN or LAMB	£5.50
BUTTER CHICKEN	£5.85
CHICKEN CHILLI MASALA or LAMB	£5.55
CHICKEN or LAMB JALFREZI	£5.50
CHICKEN or LAMB TIKKA MASSALA	£5.50
TANDOORI KING PRAWN MASSALA	£8.50
CHICKEN or LAMB MINT MASSALA	£5.55
CHICKEN TIKKA SAG or LAMB	£5.50
CHICKEN TIKKA DOPIAZA or LAMB	£5.50
CHICKEN or LAMB PASSANDA	£5.85
KING PRAWN JALFREZI	£8.50
CHICKEN ROSHANI or LAMB	£5.55
CHICKEN TIKKA REZALLA or LAMB	£5.55
CHICKEN RAJAPURI	£5.50

TRADITIONAL PRAWN DELICACIES

KING PRAWN CURRY, MADRAS or VINDALOO	£7.10
KING PRAWN KURMA	£7.25
KING PRAWN BHOONA	£7.25
KING PRAWN SAG	£7.25
KING PRAWN DANSAK	£7.25
KING PRAWN PATHIA	£7.25

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SHORSHE CHINGRY *(king prawn in hot sauces with mustard seeds, ginger, garlic and green chillies – TASTY)*	£8.95
MINT FISH MASALA *(salmon cooked with fresh herbs, spices with tomatoes and green chillies – TASTY)*	£8.50
CHICKEN or LAMB BADAMI *(cooked in bhoona sauce and garnished with cashew nuts – TASTY)*	£5.95
ACHAR GOSHT *(tender pieces of lamb cooked in a dry thick tamarind achar – TASTY)*	£5.55
KEBAB COCKTAIL BAHAR *(chicken tikka, lamb tikka and sheek kebab cooked in a medium strength with special blended sauce)*	£5.55
GARLIC CHICKEN or LAMB CHILLI MASALA *(marinated chicken cooked with fresh garlic, green pepper, tomatoes, onions, green chillies and fresh herbs – TASTY)*	£5.55
CHICKEN or LAMB TIKKA NOODLES *(noodles cooked Indian style, mild, medium or hot flavours available)*	£5.55
KEEMA NOODLE *(as above, cooked with minced meat)*	£5.55
KING PRAWN NOODLES	£8.50
MURUGH SAGWA or LAMB *(chicken tikka, minced lamb and spinach cooked in a unique sauce – TASTY)*	£5.95
MINT MURUGH MASALA *(tandoori chicken cooked with minced lamb and egg, served with medium thick sauce)*	£6.95

TRADITIONAL DISHES

PRAWN, CHICKEN or LAMB CURRY, MADRAS or VINDALOO	£4.50
CHICKEN or LAMB KURMA/PRAWN *(very mild and creamy)*	£4.70
PRAWN, CHICKEN or LAMB BHOONA *(medium dry)*	£4.70
CHICKEN or LAMB ROGON *(medium with tomatoes)*	£4.70
CHICKEN or LAMB DUPIAZA *(medium with onions and green peppers)*	£4.70
PRAWN, CHICKEN or LAMB DANSAK *(fairly hot, sweet and sour with lentils)*	£4.70
PRAWN, CHICKEN or LAMB PATHIA *(fairly hot, sweet or sour)*	£4.70
PRAWN, CHICKEN or LAMB SAG *(medium with spinach)*	£4.70
CHICKEN or LAMB MALAYA *(cooked with pineapple, very mild and creamy)*	£4.70
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JUST A SELECTION OF OUR MENU

Rhws primary entrepreneurs show off their business skills!

Year-5 sell their food items!

PUPILS at Rhws Primary School became entrepreneurs during their 'Mini-Enterprise week'.

Children from nursery to year-6 made a range of products and games; spending the week creating products, advertising and promoting them.

The week culminated in the grand 'Christmas fair', where each class sold their products and the profit for each class was calculated.

"The children would certainly give Richard Branson a run for his money!" a spokesperson said.

Year-3 sell their Christmas logs.

Celebrating success of Armed Forces appeal

The Mayor of Barry Town Council Coun Karl Kuhnell and his consort, Jane Hutt AM, John Curteis and the president and committee of Barry British Legion branch.

Giving disabled people a new voice with 'Words'

DURING a celebration of the international day of disabled people in the Senedd, Plaid AM Chris Franks, who gave a keynote speech, met Mandy Glover from St Nicholas.

Plaid AM Chris Franks with Mandy Glover of St Nicholas.

She was among a group of disabled people and campaigners from across Wales who took part in the celebration.

Mr Franks said: "It was a privilege to help launch the 'Words to Wales' project on the International Day of Disabled People and during the first UK Disability History Month.

"The 'Words to Wales' scheme is about disabled people writing about their lives and finding their voice.

"I was particularly moved by a story from a woman about her husband's severe stroke and its aftermath.

"As the Plaid member on the all party group on strokes in the Assembly and my own family experience of strokes, this is an important eye witness account of the difficulty faced by stroke survivors and their families.

"Everybody living in Wales will be given their voice on March 3 when we have a referendum on powers for Wales. In these challenging times it is important we remain as ambitious as the Words to Wales project."

After speeches and readings from disabled people, Chris Franks was questioned about ensuring better access to polling stations for disabled people.

He has written to the Electoral Commission and the Assembly Commission for assurances to ensure better access so people can vote.

Legion looks back on Poppy Appeal success

THE Royal British Legion's Christmas dinner was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Barry and Vale AM, Jane Hutt, who congratulated the local branch on their highly successful Poppy Appeal.

Group tour new breast centre

PAM ALLINSON and Rene Gannon, from the breast cancer campaigning group, Breakthrough, and Vale AM, Jane Hutt, were recently given a tour of the new breast centre for Cardiff and Vale, at University Hospital Llandough, by consultants Mr Sumit Goyal and Dr Philippa Young.

Afterwards, the AM commented: "With a wide range of brand new facilities and state-of-the-art new equipment, the breast centre at Llandough is a centre of excellence for Wales, meeting the needs of patients with personalised care, treatment and care from the dedicated team of doctors and nurses.

"I was so impressed with the investment, commitment and highly skilled staff, who are delivering a first class service with ambitions for further developments, which are all commendable."

NEWS FROM FONMON APIARY

The bees are nicely tucked in for winter!

WINTER is most definitely here, and the bees that were removed last month from the drain (Penarth) are now ensconced in Dyffryn Apiary, which will hopefully see them survive the winter.

As for the bees which had set up home in a large beech tree (St Mellons area) try as we might, their removal proved to be too difficult; much of the tree was hollow, hence the contractors being called in to deal with it and our efforts were all in vain.

To allow the contractors to get on with their task, it was decided (by me) to kill the bees. This was achieved by soaking a hessian sack in petrol, putting it into the space occupied by the bees and sealing it with towels, and we then left the contractors to get on with the tree removal.

A useful tool to have here would have been a Bee-Vac. I do not possess such an item, but I do intend to make one for such occasions in the future.

In essence, it is a domestic Hoover attached to a collecting box and this can gently assist in removing bees from such awkward areas (more on this at a later date).

This cold spell is just what we required to allow for the movement of two hives from a fruit farm site to the apiary at St Fagans, using straps to contain the hive and floor as one unit. The hives were loaded into the car in the late afternoon (3.30pm) then transported, not without incident to their destination.

Having to negotiate roads with 'sleeping policemen' set in them, one of the hives moved just a little, but enough to allow some bees to emerge and gather on the rear window of the car – they were clustered on the hive by the time we reached our goal so moving them was not too complicated.

Being late afternoon and very cold certainly helped here. There are now four viable hives on site at St Fagans.

Several hives at each of the apiaries have mite trays inserted under their floors and on examination of the debris that they will eventually contain, some idea of the welfare of the inhabitants can be gained; plus dead mites will be found and a strategy for their future control can be put into effect.

Now that work on the apiary hives has slackened, preparation for next year is well under way. All queen excluders have been cleaned, smoker is clean, supers with frames (drawn) have been treated with acetic acid and aired, frames sorted and some disposed of, while many have been gone over with a blow-torch, which will sort out any trace of Wax-Moths.

More equipment will have to be purchased as I now have nine hives on site at Fonmon, thanks to the swarms taken this year.

All in all, the bees have fared much better this year; the variable weather kept the honey crop down, but at least some was obtained.

As ever, the Varroa mite is still with us and will be for some time yet.

In the latter part of January next year, there is to be a symposium at Worcester University, where the Varroa and its effect upon the bee population throughout the world and, of course, its treatment, will be discussed by those carrying out various research programmes.

I will be attending this gathering and hope to improve my knowledge and future control strategy for this major parasite.

So Barbara and I will be looking after bees at Fonmon, St Fagans, Dyffryn Gardens and, of course, helping out those who wish to start beekeeping.

HAROLD WILLIAMS

Feast of festive fun at Barry Memorial Hall

ABOVE: Getting into the Christmas spirit!

BARRY residents enjoyed a family night out watching Tim Baker's 'A feast of festive fun' at the Barry Memorial Hall.

The event was organised by Castleland and Gibbonsdown and Court Communities First, in partnership with the Night Out scheme.

Night Out brings exciting professional performances to community venues, receiving funding from the Arts Council of Wales.

The production explored how Christmas is celebrated around the world and it was a memorable and magical production filled with live music, songs and the unexpected.

Jo Bass, Communities First development worker, said: "It was great to see so many families laughing and singing along to this great production."

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Out and About with The GEM

Choir and band join in the festive spirit at annual concert

THE Barry Male Voice Choir and RAF St Athan Voluntary Band, together with a large and enthusiastic congregation, provided a fitting welcome to the spirit of Christmas at the choir's annual Christmas concert held at St Mary's Church, Barry, on December 4.

ABOVE: Barry Male Voice Choir.

Invited guests included Jane Hutt AM, Alun Cairns MP, Mr and Mrs Colin Osborne, the Mayor and Mayoress of the Vale and Mr Karl Kuhnell, Mayor of Barry with his consort, Mrs Meryl Kuhnell.

This year's fundraising concert was in aid of Barnardo's Cymru, whose representative, Iris Williams, gave a moving account of the vital support still needed by many young people in the community whose lives and opportunities were very limited.

The RAF Voluntary Band, conducted by Alan Bourne, provided a varied high quality recital, which was enjoyed immensely by all.

The Barry Male Voice Choir, inspired by musical director Dorothy Connell, and accompanied by the talented Emma Arscott, performed with feeling and control.

As well as traditional carols and more modern songs, the band and choir combined in a memorable emotional rendition of 'Benedictus' from the *Armed Man*, a mass for peace composed by Carl Jenkins.

The choir continue their fundraising in the community with a full programme of concerts before Christmas. On Monday, December 20, they will be singing with the audience at Wetherspoon's Sir Samuel Romilly.

The choir will restart practice on Thursday, January 6, at Holy Trinity Church Hall Trinity Street, Barry, where anyone interested in joining will be made very welcome.

Practices are held on Mondays and Thursdays at 7.30pm.

RK

Voluntary band in full swing for Christmas

AFTER performances in St Athan, Bridgend, Wick, Penarth, Llantwit Major, Barry and Cowbridge, RAF St Athan Voluntary Band are in full swing as they head towards Saturday's Family Christmas concert at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School Hall at 2.30pm.

Joining the band will be Wendy Kupinsky (soprano), Alison Jones (flute) and Sian Pickett (narrator). There'll be carols, readings, instrumental pieces, sing-a-long items as well as the best of the band's extensive Christmas repertoire.

Tickets are £5 (under-14s admitted free) and available from Chris Davies Estate Agent, Llantwit Major, or telephone 01446 798527.

The band will also be performing at St Tathan Church tomorrow (Friday, December 17) at 7.30pm and at the Four Bells, St Athan this Sunday, from 8pm.

The Youth Band will be supporting carol singing at the Gathering Place on Monday, December 20, at 6pm. Everyone is very welcome at all these events.

"RAF St Athan Voluntary Band would like to thank all who supported their Christmas events, and would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and health, success and happiness for 2011," said director Alan Bourne.

WHAT'S ON – *in brief*

Rotary sleigh

SANTA and his helpers join the Dinas Powys Rotary Club this weekend.

December 17; 6pm-7.30pm, Southra Sunnycroft.

December 18; 4pm-6.30pm, Murch Valley View.

December 19; 4pm-6.30pm, Eastbrook Millbrook Heights.

December 20; 6pm-7.30pm, Sully.

Christingle at St Paul's

A CHRISTINGLE service, this Sunday (December 19) at 4pm, for families and children, heralds the coming of Christmas at the Barry church of St Paul's.

The collection taken at the service will support Welsh children in poor circumstances.

Introduced by the Children's Society 30 years ago, Christingle is now a popular family event .

Each child receives an orange, representing the world, four cocktail sticks containing fruits and sweets for the four seasons, and a lighted candle, symbolising Jesus as the light of the world.

The traditional service of carols, midnight Mass and blessing of the Christmas crib is at 11pm on Christmas Eve.

On Christmas morning, there will be carols, a procession and sung Mass at 10am. Everyone welcome.

Candlelit concert in Ewenny

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ensemble will be performing their annual Christmas concert by candlelight at the Priory Church, Ewenny tomorrow (Friday, December 17).

Music will include the Corelli *Christmas Concerto* and two pieces by Vivaldi, the *Cello Concerto in A Minor* with soloist Nicola Thomas, formerly of the London Mozart Players, and the *Four Seasons*, with WNO violinist and Ensemble leader Donald McNaught directing.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets, including mulled wine and mince pies, are available at the door, or call 01656 664105.

Porthceri fayre

THE Porthceri Centre rounds off the year with a Christmas fayre this Saturday (December 18) at 2pm, which will be opened by 'local boy' Peter Karrie.

There will be plenty of opportunities to buy last-minute stocking fillers, relax with a tea, coffee and homemade cakes, and enjoy the exhibitions provided by Baruc Art Group and Positive Image Photographic Society.

Photography experts from PIPS will also be giving demonstrations throughout the afternoon of digital techniques you can easily do at home with your own photos.

To add to what promises to be an afternoon with a real buzz, well-known local belly dance group, the Desert Divas, will also be displaying their hypnotic skills.

The Porthceri Centre will look particularly festive against the backdrop of the Victorian street scene, which was used for the recent smash hit Pukka show *Little Match Girl.*

Lucky winners!

THERE were four lucky winners of The GEM's competition run on December 2 with Skin Studio of Penarth.

The winners, who each win a £50 voucher to spend in the studio, are: Mrs P Williams of Bridgend; Mrs SB Mace of Llanbethery; Ceri James of Barry; and Vera Morgans of Penarth.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

BRYNGARW Country Park, has a hectic festive diary with Father Christmas, storytelling, live music and Christmas carols.

On December 18-19 from 10am-5pm, there is a selection of Victorian fairground rides, gift and craft stalls, a carousel, swing boats, coconut shy, traditional hot chestnuts, mulled wine, live music from Solid Brass, barrel organ and mince pies. There will also be a special visit from Father Christmas from 12pm-2pm.

Actors in Victorian costumes will tell the story of a Victorian Christmas; playing different characters, from a servant to the lady of the house, as they prepare for the festive season.

Admission and car parking is free, there will be a charge for rides and stall items. For further details call 01656 725155 or email: bryngarwpark@bridgend.gov.uk

On December 21, enjoy outdoor traditional Christmas carols on the lawn in front of Bryngarw House at 8pm, accompanied by Solid Brass. Free admission and car parking.

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CHRISTMAS EVE

St Illtud's, Llantwit Major	16.00pm	Crib Service
St James, Wick	18.00pm	Christingle Service
St Illtud's, Llantwit Major	18.30pm	Ecumenical Carols
St Illtud's, Llantwit Major	23.15pm	Midnight Eucharist
St Cattwg, Llanmaes	23.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
St Mary, Monknash	23.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
St Tathan, St Athan	23.30pm	Midnight Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY

St Illtud's, Llantwit Major	8.15am	Eucharist
St Giles, Gileston	8.30am	Eucharist
St Donat	9.30am	Eucharist
Holy Trinity, Marcross	9.30am	Eucharist
St Michael, Llanmihangel	10.00am	Communion
St James, Wick	10.30am	Eucharist
St Tathan, St Athan	10.30am	Family Eucharist
St Illtud, Llantwit Major	10.30am	Family Eucharist

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- The statutory Careers Service (Youth Guidance Services), Youth Gateway and Education Gateway
- Cardiff and Vale Education Business Partnership (EBP)
- Adult Guidance Services
- The Learning and Careers Advice helpline in Wales

Careers Wales

Here to help you!

Work taster scheme helps employers recruit

Chef Tony Jenkins (left) with Keri Cash (centre) and Daniel Dredge (right), employees at Chef's Kitchen following their successful work taster placements.

An initiative developed by Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale is helping employers recruit young people not in education, employment or training. The Work Taster Scheme provides employers with the opportunity to assess a candidate's suitability over a two week period before committing to a full time contract.

Employment adviser, Adrian Cole, explained: **"The Work Taster Scheme enables young people to prove their potential to employers. It also gives employers time to decide whether a person is suited to the job on offer. During the placement the young person is paid an allowance from Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale."**

Work tasters proved a great success for Keri Cash and Daniel Dredge, both of Cardiff, who secured full time jobs with Chef's Sandwich, a company supplying sandwiches, wraps and salads to local coffee shops, bars and restaurants.

Keri and Daniel had both found it difficult to find work and turned to Careers Wales for help. After two week placements at Chef's Sandwich they were both offered full time employment.

Chef Tony Jenkins, owner of the business, said: **"Keri and Daniel were able to demonstrate their interest and commitment to the company during the work taster and we were very pleased to offer them employment. The Work Taster Scheme is an excellent way for young people to find out whether a job suits them and for employers to fill vacancies which become available."**

Careers advice leads to new business

Donna Ovenstone, a working mum of four, contacted Careers Wales last year to discuss a change of career. Following a discussion with information assistant Judith Elliott – Butcher and an interview with careers adviser Gill Evans, Donna successfully applied for the HND course in Beauty and Spa Management at Coleg Morgannwg in Pontypridd.

Donna is now in her second year of the course after passing the first year with flying colours. She has also recently started her own beauty business called Kardia Beauty at X-Cell Hair Company in Morganstown, Cardiff.

Donna said: **"I'd like to thank Judith and Gill for the help they gave me. Without their advice none of this would have happened."**

Improvements to our services

- During 2010 we refurbished our Careers Centre at 53 Charles Street, Cardiff to provide more interviewing space and improve the reception area for customers.
- We have re-organised our teams to ensure a more co-ordinated system for customers accessing our services.
- We are continuing to develop a multi-agency approach to supporting young people not in education, employment or training by hosting a mental health services worker from the Health Service, counsellors from Action for Children, housing officers from Housing Options (Cardiff Council and Housing Associations) and a member of staff from Cardiff Council Social Care Services at our Youth Gateway Centre in Cardiff.

Check out our website **www.careerswales.com**

If you want to talk to an adviser you can call our national Learning and Careers Advice helpline 0800 900 100 (if calling from a mobile please telephone 029 2090 6801)

If you want to speak to an adviser face to face you can drop in or phone to make an appointment at one of our centres.

Careers Centre, 53 Charles Street, Cardiff CF10 2GD
Tel: 029 2090 6700

Careers Centre, 49 Holton Road, Barry CF63 4HF
Tel: 01446 410600

Young people in full time education can arrange to see their careers adviser at their school or college.

Careers Advice

If you want to talk to an adviser you can call our national **Learning and Careers Advice helpline** 0800 100 900 (if calling from a mobile please telephone 029 2090 6801)

0800 100 900

Pupils from St Cuthbert's RC Primary School, Cardiff find out more about construction engineering at Cardiff Bay.

All aboard for a lesson with a difference

Nearly 800 Year 6 pupils from local primary schools recently took time out to find out more about the regeneration of Cardiff Bay.

Co-ordinated by the EBP, the pupils enjoyed a guided tour on the Water Bus to view the Barrage and the buildings, old and new, around the Bay. During the trip the pupils were given a presentation, including contributions by representatives from local construction engineering companies including Dean and Dyball, BAM Nuttall, Carillion Civil Engineering, ERH Communications, Alun Griffiths Contractors Ltd, Britannia Construction Ltd, Raymond Brown and Walters UK Ltd. The pupils also complete work sheets during the tour and their teachers build on what they have learnt with further activities back in the classroom.

The positive impact of this activity is evidenced from teachers' comments including: ''it opened the eyes of pupils, especially girls, to the possibility of working in the construction industry" and "good science materials link for the classroom.''

Redundancy offers new opportunity

Redundancy for gas service engineer David Fulton provided him with the opportunity to achieve his goal of setting up his own business.

Having previously worked in the security industry, David saw a gap in the market and the idea of Glamorgan Guard Dogs was born. David had heard about ReAct funding, a scheme set up by the Welsh Assembly Government to help retrain individuals who are newly redundant and he contacted Careers Wales for help.

Careers adviser William McCarthy informed him of a course available with R and S Training in Welshpool in general purpose security dog handling. He also received information about becoming self employed.

David said: "Following the training I was able to set up my own business and so far it's going very well. We have undertaken security work at various events including the Royal Welsh Show and the Ryder Cup. I've also recently agreed a contract with a haulage company."

AMs visit Careers Wales

Local Assembly Members from all parties were recently invited to the Careers Centres in Cardiff and Barry to update their knowledge about the role of Careers Wales in helping young people and adults achieve their potential.

Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale of Glamorgan and Minister for Budget and Business, visited the Careers Centre and Youth Gateway Centre in Barry. Writing in the Glamorgan Gem she said: "I was privileged to meet some of the young people who were now enjoying steady employment or succeeding in college. They were motivated and they said the one to one support they received at the Gateway was pivotal in making the breakthrough in their lives.

"I also met a group of adults who had been made redundant, with the impact of the recession all too clear. They were all making their way into new careers and jobs and were highly complimentary about the impact of Careers Wales engagement."

Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale wins awards

- For the second year running Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale received an award from Cardiff Leaving Care for the company's commitment to supporting young people who have spent time in care.
- Careers advisers Mike Davies and Barbara Price received Partner of Excellence Awards from Jobcentre Plus for the support they offer customers alongside Jobcentre Plus staff in Cardiff, Penarth and Barry.
- Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale recently achieved the Investors in People (IIP) Silver Award along with the IIP Leadership and Management Award.

We value your opinions. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about our services please contact:

Avril Jackson, Marketing manager, Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale, 53 Charles Street, Cardiff CF10 2GD Tel: 029 2090 6700 or email avril.jackson@cardiffandvale.org.uk

Careers Wales is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. The cost of our services for the year 1st April 2009 – 31st March 2010 was approximately £2.79 per month per household in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Gyrfa Cymru Careers Wales

How we did in 2009/2010

Support for students in secondary and further education in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan		Achievement	% against target
Interviews.		15,412	120%
Moving Forward Plans.		11,528	105%
Group sessions.		2,005	100%
Young people taking part in Education Gateway, a motivational programme for 14-16 year olds and young people in college.		688	108%
Young people receiving mentoring support from Education Gateway advisers.	Interviews Group sessions	2,255 904	133% 105%
Work with young people with a Statement of Special Educational Need.	Interviews Transition Reviews Moving Forward Plans Learning and Skills Plans Group sessions	1,050 552 832 172 48	153% 106% 103% 115% 120%
Number of young people who received support for an education business activity.	Primary schools Secondary schools	21,925 29,740	N/A 100%
Number of work experience placements arranged.	14-16 year olds 16-19 year olds	5,942 1,027	N/A N/A
Number of young people taking part in business and enterprise.	12-16 year olds 16-19 year olds	8,276 2,146	N/A N/A
Number of young people receiving employer support for mentoring and individual goal setting.		1,862	N/A
Number of young people involved in setting up small business projects with employer support.	12-19 year olds	5,505	N/A
Number of young people participating in employer supported curriculum delivery/development activities.		23,290	N/A

Support for schools and colleges

Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale works closely with teachers and lecturers to ensure pupils and students receive high quality careers education and guidance. During the year 35 training events were organised involving 173 teachers and associated staff. In addition 413 primary and secondary school teachers and college lecturers were helped to find placements with employers: 99.5% against target.

Support for parents and guardians Surveys have found that parents and carers are the biggest influence on the career decisions of their children.

Discussions with parents.	3,301	N/A
Parents evenings attended.	190	N/A
Mailings to parents of students in Years 7, 9, 10, 11 & 12.	28,766	N/A

Support for young people who have left full time education

Interviews by careers advisers at our Centres.	2,725	113%
Interviews by careers advisers with young people with a Statement of Special Educational Need.	304	N/A
Interviews by placing assistants.	3,619	100%
Written outcomes of guidance.	3,086	251%
Number of young people placed in Youth Gateway.	536	97%
Number of young people placed into employment.	283	N/A
Number of young people placed into work-based training.	1,648	N/A
Interviews with young people on Youth Gateway.	5,820	110%
Moving Forward Plans for young people on Youth Gateway.	1,041	99%
Group sessions for young people on Youth Gateway.	4,807	93%

Youth Gateway is run by Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale and provides extra help for young people who are unsure what to do after leaving school or college or who are finding it difficult to find the right opportunity.

In addition the Cardiff Learning Coach Team, funded by Cymorth Cymru and Cardiff 16-19 Network is based at Cardiff Youth Gateway. Careers advisers and youth workers have been trained as Learning Coaches to help hardest to reach 16-18 year olds access education, training and employment.

Careers advisers are also based with the Youth Offending Services in Cardiff and the Vale to help young people who have offended engage in education, training or employment.

Support for adults

Interviews by careers advisers	6,550	114%
Of which: Adults interviewed who were unemployed.	2,313	N/A
Adults interviewed under notice of redundancy, including those supported under ReAct.	2,453	N/A
Interviews by information assistants.	3,106	104%
Written outcomes of guidance.	7,316	105%
Group sessions.	115	115%

Learning and Careers Advice national helpline 0800 100 900

Last year 35,041 calls and 1,407 emails to the helpline were received from across Wales.

Working with employers

Visits to employers.	1,447	82%
Job vacancies notified.	546	N/A
Employers supporting education business activities.	3,521	128%

Gyrfa Cymru Careers Wales

Caerdydd a'r Fro

Datblygu pobl drwy gynllunio gyrfa gydol oes

Ydych chi'n edrych am gyngor ar ddysgu a gyrfaoedd? Medrwn helpu, beth bynnag yw'ch oedran neu sefyllfa

Mae Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro yn gyfrifol am ddarparu:

- Y Gwasanaeth Gyrfaoedd statudol (Gwasanaethau Arweiniad Ieuenctid), Porth Ieuenctid a Porth Addysg
- Partneriaeth Addysg Busnes Caerdydd a'r Fro (PAB)
- Gwasanaethau Arweiniad Oedolion
- Llinell Gymorth Cyngor Dysgu a Gyrfaoedd yng Nghymru

Gyrfa Cymru
Yma i'ch helpu!

Cynllun blasu swyddi yn helpu cyflogwyr i recriwtio

Y chef Tony Jenkins (chwith) gyda Keri Cash (canol) a Daniel Dredge (ar y dde), a gyflogir yn Chef's Kitchen yn dilyn eu lleoliadau blasu gwaith llwyddiannus.

Mae cynllun a ddatblygwyd gan Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro yn helpu cyflogwyr i recriwtio pobl ifanc heb fod mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant. Mae'r Cynllun Blasu Gwaith yn rhoi cyfle i gyflogwyr asesu os yw ymgeisydd yn addas dros gyfnod o ddwy wythnos cyn ymrwymo i gontract amser-llawn.

Esboniodd Adrian Cole, cynghorydd Cyflogaeth: **"Mae'r Cynllun Blasu Gwaith yn galluogi pobl ifanc i brofi eu potensial i gyflogwyr. Mae hefyd yn rhoi amser i gyflogwyr benderfynu os yw person yn addas ar gyfer y swydd dan sylw. Yn ystod y lleoliad mae'r person ifanc yn derbyn lwfans gan Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro."**

Bu cyfleoedd blasu gwaith yn llwyddiannus iawn i Keri Cash a Daniel Dredge, ill dau o Gaerdydd, a sicrhaodd swyddi llawn-amser gyda Chef's Sandwich, cwmni sy'n cyflenwi brechdanau, rapiau a salads i siopau coffi, bariau a bwytai lleol.

Roedd Keri a Daniel wedi'i chael yn anodd dod o hyd i swydd a daethant at Gyrfa Cymru am help. Cynigiwyd cyflogaeth lawn-amser i'r ddau ohonynt ar ôl lleoliadau dwy wythnos yn Chef's Sandwich.

Dywedodd Tony Jenkins, perchennog y busnes: **"Gallodd Keri a Daniel ddangos eu diddordeb a'u hymrwymiad i'r cwmni yn ystod y cyfleoedd blasu gwaith ac roeddem yn falch iawn i gynnig swyddi iddynt. Mae'r Cynllun Blasu Gwaith yn ffordd ardderchog i bobl ifanc ganfod os yw swydd yn addas ar eu cyfer ac i gyflogwyr lenwi swyddi gwag."**

Cyngor gyrfa yn arwain at fusnes newydd

Cysylltodd Donna Ovenstone, mam i bedwar, â Gyrfa Cymru y llynedd i drafod newid gyrfa. Yn dilyn trafodaeth gyda'r cymhorthydd gwybodaeth Judith Elliott-Butcher a chyfweliad gyda'r cynghorydd gyrfaoedd, Gill Evans, gwnaeth Donna gais llwyddiannus ar gyfer y cwrs HND mewn Harddwch a Rheolaeth Sba yng Ngholeg Morgannwg ym Mhontypridd.

Mae Donna bellach yn ail flwyddyn ei chwrs ar ôl cwblhau'r flwyddyn gyntaf yn gwbl ddi-drafferth. Mae hefyd yn ddiweddar wedi sefydlu ei busnes ei hun o'r enw Kardia Beauty yn X-Cell Hair Company yn Nhreforgan, Caerdydd.

Dywedodd Donna: **"Fe fyddwn i'n hoffi diolch i Judith a Gill am eu help. Fyddai dim o hyn wedi digwydd heb eu help nhw".**

Gwelliannau i'n gwasanaeth

- Yn ystod 2010 fe wnaethom adnewyddu ein Canolfan Gyrfaoedd yn 53 Heol Siarl, i roi mwy o afod ar gyfer cyfweliadau a gwella'r dderbynfa i gwsmeriaid.
- Rydym wedi ad-drefnu ein timau i sicrhau system fwy cydlynol ar gyfer cwsmeriaid sy'n cyrchu ein gwasanaethau.
- Rydym yn parhau i ddatblygu dull ami-asiantaeth i gefnogi pobl ifanc heb fod mewn addysg, cyflogaeth neu hyfforddiant drwy letya gweithiwr gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl o'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd, cwnselwyr o Gweithredu dros Blant, swyddogion o Opsiynau Tai (Cyngor Caerdydd a Chymdeithasau Adeiladu) ac aelod o staff Gwasanaethau Gofal Cymdeithasol Cyngor Caerdydd yn ein Canolfan Porth Ieuenctid yng Nghaerdydd.

Edrychwch ar ein gwefan **www.gyrfacymru.com**

Os hoffech siarad gyda chynghorydd medrwch ffonio ein llinell gymorth genedlaethol Cyngor Dysgu a Gyrfaoedd 0800 900 100 (029 20290 6801 o ffôn symudol).

Os hoffech siarad wyneb yn wyneb gyda chynghorydd medrwch alw heibio neu ffonio i wneud apwyntiad yn un o'n canolfannau.

Canolfan Gyrfaoedd, 53 Heol Siarl, Caerdydd CF10 2GD
Ffôn: 029 2090 6700

Canolfan Gyrfaoedd, 49 Heol Holton, Y Barri CF63 4HF
Ffôn: 01446 410600

Gall pobl ifanc mewn addysg amser-llawn drefnu i weld eu cynghorydd gyrfaoedd yn eu hysgol neu goleg.

Cyngor Gyrfaoedd

Os hoffech siarad gyda chynghorydd medrwch ffonio ein **Llinell gymorth genedlaethol Cyngor Dysgu a Gyrfaoedd** 0800 100 900 (029 2090 6801 o ffôn symudol)

0800 100 900

Disgyblion o Ysgol Gynradd Babyddol St Cuthbert, Caerdydd yn canfod mwy am beirianneg adeiladu ym Mae Caerdydd

Ar y bwrdd am wers gyda gwahaniaeth

Cafodd bron i 800 o ddisgyblion Blwyddyn 6 o ysgolion cynradd lleol gyfle'n ddiweddar i ganfod mwy am adfywio Bae Caerdydd.

Mwynhaodd y disgyblion daith tywys wedi'i chydlynu gan y Bartneriaeth Addysg Busnes ar y Bws Dŵr i weld y morglawdd a'r adeiladau hen a newydd o amgylch y Bae. Cafodd y disgyblion gyflwyniad yn cynnwys cyfraniadau gan gwmniau peirianneg adeiladu lleol yn cynnwys Dean and Dyball, BAM Nuttall, Carillion Civil Engineering, ERH Communications, Alun Griffiths Contractors Cyf, Britannia Construction Cyf, Raymond Brown a Walters UK Cyf. Llenwodd y disgyblion ddalenni gwaith yn ystod y daith ac mae eu hathrawon yn adeiladu ar yr hyn a ddysgwyd gyda gweithgareddau pellach yn ôl yn yr ystafell ddosbarth.

Mae effaith gadarnhaol y gweithgaredd yn amlwg o sylwadau athrawon yn cynnwys: "Fe wnaeth agor llygaid disgyblion, yn arbennig y merched, i bosibilrwydd gweithio yn y diwydiant adeiladu" a "cysylltiad deunyddiau gwyddonioeth da ar gyfer yr ystafell dosbarth."

Dileu swydd yn cynnig cyfle newydd

Pan gafodd swydd y peiriannydd gwasanaeth nwy David Fulton ei dileu, rhoddodd gyfle iddo gyflawni ei nod o sefydlu ei fusnes ei hun.

Ar ôl gweithio'n flaenorol yn y diwydiant diogelwch, gwelodd David fwlch yn y farchnad a ganwyd syniad Glamorgan Guard Dogs. Roedd David wedi clywed am gyllid ReAct, cynllun a sefydlwyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i helpu ailhyfforddi unigolion y cafodd eu swyddi eu dileu a chysylltodd â Gyrfa Cymru am help. Dywedodd y cynghorydd gyrfaoedd William McCarthy wrtho am gwrs ar gael gyda R and S Training yn y Trallwng mewn trin cŵn diogelwch pwrpas cyffredinol. Cafodd wybodaeth hefyd am ddod yn hunangyflogedig.

Dywedodd David: "Medrais sefydlu fy musnes fy hun ar ôl cael yr hyfforddiant ac mae'n mynd yn dda iawn hyd yma. Rydym wedi gwneud gwaith diogelwch mewn gwahanol ddigwyddiadau yn cynnwys Sioe Frenhinol Cymru a Chwpan Ryder. Rwyf hefyd wedi cytuno'n ddiweddar ar gontract gyda chwmni cludo."

ACau yn ymweld â Gyrfa Cymru

Gwahoddwyd Aelodau Cynulliad lleol o bob plaid i Ganolfannau Gyrfaoedd yng Nghaerdydd a'r Barri yn ddiweddar i gael gwybodaeth gyfoes am rôl Gyrfa Cymru wrth helpu pobl ifanc ac oedolion i gyflawni eu potensial.

Ymwelodd Jane Hutt, AC Bro Morgannwg a Gweinidog dros y Gylideb a Busnes, â'r Ganolfan Gyrfaoedd a'r Ganolfan Porth Ieuenctid yn y Barri. Wrth ysgrifennu yn y Glamorgan Gem dywedodd: "Roedd yn fraint i mi weld rhai o'r bobl ifanc sy'n awr mewn swyddi cyson neu'n llwydda yn y coleg. Roedd ganddynt gymhelliant ac fe ddwedon nhw fod y gefnogaeth unigol a gawsant yn y Porth yn ganolog wrth newid eu bywydau.

"Fe wnes hefyd gyfarfod â gnŵp o oedolion yr oedd eu swyddi wedi ei dileu, gydag effaith y dirwasgiad yn amlwg iawn. Roeddent oll ar eu ffordd i yrfaoedd a swyddi newydd ac yn uchel iawn eu canmoliaeth am effaith gwaith Gyrfa Cymru."

Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro'n ennill gwobrau

- Am yr ail flwyddyn yn olynol derbyniodd Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro wobr gan Gadael Gofal Caerdydd am ymrwymiad y cwmni i gefnogi pobl ifanc sydd wedi treulio amser mewn gofal.
- Derbyniodd y cynghorwyr gyrfaoedd Mike Davies a Barbara Price wobrau Partner Rhagorol gan y Ganolfan Byd Gwaith am y cymorth a gynigiant i gwsmeriaid wrth ochr staff Canolfan Byd Gwaith yng Nghaerdydd, Penarth a'r Barri.
- Enillodd Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro Ddyfarniad Arian Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl yn ddiweddar ynghyd â Dyfarniad Arweinyddiaeth a Rheolaeth Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl.

Gwerthfawrogwn eich sylwadau. Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiynau, sylwadau neu awgrymiadau am ein gwasanaethau cysylltwch os gwelwch yn dda ag:

Avril Jackson, Rheolydd Marchnata, Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro, 53 Heol Siarl, Caerdydd CF10 2GD Ffôn: 029 2090 6700 neu e-bost avril.jackson@cardiffandvale.org.uk.

Ariannir Gyrfa Cymru gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Roedd cost ein gwasanaethau am y flwyddyn 1 Ebrill 2009 - 31 Mawrth 2010 tua £2.79 y mis i bob oelwyd yng Nghaerdydd a Bro Morgannwg.

Sut y gwnaethom yn 2009/10

Cefnogaeth i fyfyrwyr mewn addysg uwchradd ac addysg bellach yng Nghaerdydd a Bro Morgannwg		Cyf-lawniad	% yn erbyn y targed
Cyfweliadau.		15,412	120%
Cynlluniau Symud Ymlaen.		11,528	105%
Sesiynau grŵp.		2,005	109%
Pobl ifanc yn cymryd rhan yn Porth Addysg, rhaglen cymhelliant i rai 14-16 oed a phobl ifanc mewn coleg.		688	108%
Pobl ifanc yn derbyn cefnogaeth mentora gan gynghorwyr Porth Addysg.	Cyfweliadau Sesiynau grŵp	2,255 904	133% 105%
Gwaith gyda phobl ifanc gyda Daiganiad o Angen Addysgol Arbennig.	Cyfweliadau Adolygiadau Portio Cynlluniau Symud Ymlaen Cynlluniau Dysgu a Sgiliau Sesiynau grŵp	1,050 552 832 172 48	153% 104% 103% 115% 120%
Pobl ifanc a ddetbyniodd gefnogaeth ar gyfer gweithgaredd addysg busnes.	Ysgolion cynradd Ysgolion uwchradd	21,925 29,740	DIG 109%
Nifer lleoliadau profiad gwaith a drefnwyd.	14-16 oed 16-19 oed	5,942 1,027	DIG DIG
Nifer y bobl ifanc a gymerodd ran mewn busnes a mentro.	12-16 oed 16-19 oed	8,276 2,146	DIG DIG
Nifer y bobl ifanc yn derbyn cefnogaeth cyflogwyr ar gyfer mentora a gosod nodau unigol.		1, 862	DIG
Nifer y bobl ifanc yn ymwneud â sefydlu prosiectau busnes bach gyda chefnogaeth cyflogwyr.	12-19 oed	5,505	DIG
Nifer y bobl ifanc a gymerodd ran mewn gweithgareddau cyflenwi/datblygu cwricwlwm a gefnogir gan gyflogwyr.		23,290	DIG

Cefnogaeth i ysgolion a cholegau

Mae Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro yn gweithio'n agos gydag athrawon a darlithwyr i sicrhau fod disgyblion a myfyrwyr yn derbyn addysg ac arweiniad gyrfaoedd ansawdd uchel. Trefnwyd 35 digwyddiad hyfforddi yn ystod y flwyddyn yn cynnwys 173 o athrawon a staff cynylliedig. Cafodd 413 o athrawon ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd a darlithwyr coleg hefyd eu helpu i ganfod lleoliadau gyda chyflogwyr 99.5% yn erbyn y targed.

Cefnogaeth i rieni a gwarcheidwaid Canfu arolygon mai rhieni a gofalwyr yw'r dylanwad mwyaf ar benderfyniadau gyrfa eu plant.		
Trafodaethau gyda rhieni.	3,301	DIG
Nosweithiau rhieni a fynychwyd.	100	DIG
Llythyrau at rieni myfyrwyr ym mlynyddoedd 7, 9, 10, 11 a 12.	28,786	DIG
Cefnogaeth i bobl ifanc sydd wedi gadael addysg lawn-amser		
Cyfweliadau gan gynghorwyr gyrfaoedd yn ein Canolfannau.	2,725	113%
Cyfweliadau gan gynghorwyr gyrfaoedd gyda phobl ifanc gyda Daiganiad o Angen Addysgol Arbennig.	304	DIG
Cyfweliadau gan gynhorthwyr llesiol.	3,619	100%
Cofnyniadau arweiniad ysgrifenedig.	3,086	251%
Nifer y bobl ifanc a ddodwyd yn y Porth Ieuenctid.	536	97%
Nifer y bobl ifanc a ddodwyd mewn cyflogaeth.	283	DIG
Nifer y bobl ifanc a ddodwyd mewn hyfforddiant seiliedig ar waith.	1,648	DIG
Cyfweliadau gyda phobl ifanc yn y Porth Ieuenctid.	5,820	110%
Cynllunau Symud Ymlaen ar gyfer pobl ifanc yn y Porth Ieuenctid.	1,041	99%
Sesiynau grŵp ar gyfer pobl ifanc yn y Porth Ieuenctid.	4,807	93%

Cafodd Porth Ieuenctid ei redeg gan Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro ac mae'n rhoi help ychwanegol i bobl ifanc sy'n ansicr beth i'w wneud ar ôl gadael y ysgol neu coleg sy'n ei chael yn anodd dod o hyd i'r cyfle cywir.

Yn ogystal mae Tîm Hyfforddiant Dysgu Caerdydd, a ariannir gan Cymorth Cymru, a Rhwydwaith 14-19 Caerdydd yn seiliedig yn Mforth Ieuenctid Caerdydd. Cafodd cynghorwyr gyrfaoedd a gweithwyr ieuenctid eu hyfforddi fel Hyfforddwyr Dysgu i helpu'r bobl ifanc 16-18 oed anodd ef eu cynnedd i gael mynediad i addysg, hyfforddiant a chyflogaeth.

Mae cynghorwyr gyrfaoedd hefyd yn seiliedig gyda'r Gwasanaethau Tiroeddu Ieuenctid yng Nghaerdydd a'r Fro i helpu pobl ifanc sydd wedi treseddu i gymryd rhan mewn addysg, hyfforddiant neu gyflogaeth.

Cefnogaeth i oedolion		
Cyfweliadau gan gynghorwyr gyrfaoedd.	6,550	114%
Oheynt: Cyfweliadau gydag oedolion di-waith.	2,313	DIG
Cyfweliadau gydag oedolion a gafodd rybudd dileu swydd yn cynnwys rhai a gynorthwyir dan ReAct.	2,453	DIG
Cyfweliadau gan gynhorthwyr gwybodaeth.	3,104	104%
Arweiniad ysgrifenedig ar gastyniadau.	7,316	105%
Sesiynau grŵp	115	115%

Llinell gymorth genedlaethol Cyngor Dysgu a Gyrfaoedd 0800 100 900

Y llynedd derbyniodd y llinell gymorth 35,041 galwad ffôn a 1,407 neges e-bost, o bob rhan o Gymru.

Gweithio gyda chyflogwyr		
Ymweliadau i gyflogwyr.	1,447	82%
Swyddi gwag a hysbyseyd.	546	DIG
Cyflogwyr yn cefnogi gweithgareddau addysg busnes.	3,521	128%

SEASONS GREETINGS

from your local tradesmen and The GEM

Why not place an advert in the classified pages of the GEM during 2011 and you will see how the power of advertising can work for you.

. . . So let the GEM work on your behalf, we are just a phone call or e-mail away, call Eileen on

01446 774484

or e-mail

gemsales@internet-today.co.uk

Plan your 2011 Marketing NOW – through the Christmas break.

Get it right first time – don't waste money. Put thought into promoting your company.

An advert in the Gem can reach **43,000 homes . . .** Penarth to Porthcawl (covering south & mid Glam)

The GEM - The Priceless weekly newspaper, loved by everyone in the community.

Call Eileen on **01446 774484** to discuss your options in the classified section of the paper, headed – **'Don't do it yourself'**

STEVE AIREY
DECORATING SERVICES
would like to wish all his customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
01446 795520 or 07891 768151

C.S. BOXALL Ltd.
Plumbing & Heating
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DEPP AND JOLIE ENJOY THE VIEWS OF VENICE IN FROTHY THRILLER...

EVER since Johnny Depp struck mainstream gold with the *Pirates of the Carribean* franchise back in 2003, he seems to have revelled in playing characters a little out of the ordinary.

Willy Wonka, The Mad Hatter and Sweeney Todd have all been given the sparkle of Depp's taste for the obscure, but there has been little in the way of 'straight' acting from the star, save for *Public Enemie*s – which makes his latest film, *The Tourist*, something of a welcome arrival.

Depp plays Frank, the titular tourist who travels to Venice to mend a broken heart. While there, he encounters Elise (Angelina Jolie), a mysterious woman who has her eye on Frank; however, with various agencies (led by Paul Bettany) and Russian gangsters (led by Steven Berkoff) on the tale of Elise, Frank soon gets unwillingly caught up in a world of intrigue and suspense...

The term 'Hitchcockian' is generally used to describe films that manage to ape the master director's ability to create twisting and turning stories with mysteries that reveal themselves as the story reaches its climax. Often, it is a term lazily used merely because a director or scriptwriter has adapted the more notable works of his oeuvre and presented them as heavily influenced by the likes of *North by Northwest*, et al.

It's a comparison that, lazy or not, applies to *The Tourist*, but rather than merely ape something that has gone before, the film takes a story that even Hitch himself would have found appealing and ends up being part homage, part attempt to parlay his style into modern-day film-making. It is also very entertaining indeed.

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

It is certainly assisted by using a European director, as opposed to an American one – the feel of the film having a sheen of class and sophistication with a degree of weight under the bonnet, and visually making the most of the cinematic quality that Venice brings to the screen.

You could argue that Venice deserves its own screen credit after Depp and Jolie, such is the loving way it is shot, and you can't argue with such sumptuous visuals.

The man behind the camera, the wonderfully monikered (but spellcheck-confounding) Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, is making his English-language debut, having helmed the astounding *The Lives of Others*, and Donnersmarck shows little nerves here in what is a skilled directorial outing.

The visuals, as mentioned, are wonderful, while the occasional outbreaks of action are smoothly handled, making up in style for what they lack in expansive thrills and spills.

But what is most impressive is Donnersmarck's lightness of touch with the material, something his previous film lacked mainly due to the nature of the story.

Here, he seems to relish in the playfulness of the tale, and while that does backfire slightly, giving the more dramatic moments less tension, in the overall context it works very well, the frothiness of the film making it easy to overlook the lack of realism within the story, which is perhaps the film's biggest bugbear.

While the set-up is swiftly handled, there are plot holes if you have the time to look for them: Why is Frank simply going along for the ride when he doesn't know this woman; why are the police watching Elise from afar rather than arresting her – which, come the film's conclusion are explained in a twist that, while clever, feels something of a letdown.

But given that this came from the pen of Christopher McQuarrie (*The Usual Suspects*) and Julian Fellowes (TV's *Downton Abbey* and *Gosford Park*) along with Donnersmarck (albeit adapted from Jerome Salle's 2005 French picture *Anthony Zimmer*), there is enough clever dialogue and turns to keep you engaged and even forgive a climax that splutters a little just as things are building up.

Another reason for the film's success is the pairing of Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie, remarkably the first time the pair have been on the big screen together. When you have a gorgeous woman like Jolie, and an attractive man like Depp (or so I've been told!), sparks are obviously going to fly, and the pair share a playful chemistry together.

Depp's turn is far more straightforward than his recent output, and it's a welcome change, the actor delivering a solid but entertaining turn.

Certainly, he adds a level of idiosyncracy to the character (his smoking of a plastic cigarette as an example) and doesn't quite convince as the ordinary man thrust into extraordinary circumstances, but Depp is never less than watchable and the same applies here.

Jolie can do elegant lady of mystery in her sleep, and shorn of her action credentials (bar a riverboat sequence) her performance is tamer and ever so slightly more refined, her usual steely persona showing the merest hint of emotion under the surface.

As the conductor of events, she and her British accent lead us through the mystery of what is going, and looking her best, Jolie sparkles alongside Depp.

The film really pivots on the two leads, but there are supporting turns from the likes of Paul Bettany as an investigator on the tail of Elise, Timothy Dalton as a chief of police, Rufus Sewell as a mysterious man and Steven Berkoff, cruising as a gangster, that don't exactly push the limits, but within the film are perfectly serviceable, given the amount of time they spend on screen.

Certainly *The Tourist* may be a little too frothy and lightweight for some, its caper movie feel and style nothing overly substantial and, at times, veers towards throwaway; but as a slice of undemanding Friday night fare, it works extremely well – and when you have this much beauty on screen you can't complain about that!

VERDICT: A playful caper film that tips its hat to Hitchcock, *The Tourist* is fizzy and pleasing, if lightweight, film.

Director Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck captures the beauty of Venice, and also the European feel of the thriller, while Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie sparkle in the lead roles, in what is a wonderful piece of cinematic entertainment. *Recommended.*

NEWS FROM THE PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Join in the festival of... winter wonderland walks!

BETWEEN Christmas Day and January 3, the annual festival of winter walks will take place throughout the country.

Last year, the event was sponsored by Nature Valley and more than 880 walks took place, with 15,500-participants getting involved. After a walk in the fresh air, there is nothing like a bowl of hot soup and a crusty roll to warm you up and this year the event is sponsored by Baxters.

Run by The Ramblers, local groups are calling upon walkers, non-walkers and families to join them in a series of walks to promote walking, the beauty of the countryside, to help gain fitness, to enhance your health and as a social event.

All walks are led by experienced ramblers, are of varying lengths, open to everyone, are free and as usual the Penarth group will be joining in and details are listed below.

On December 27, meet at 10am by the Murch shops, Dinas Powys for a 5-mile easy/moderate walk at the Oxhams, Cog and Cosmeston; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On December 28, meet 10.30am at the Knap Car Terrace, Barry for a 4-mile easy/moderate walk to the Golden Stairs, St Curig's Church and Porthkerry Park; contact Val H on 029 2051 3274.

On December 29, meet at 10am at the Woodland Trust car park, off the lane to Michaelston-le-Pit for a 5.5-mile easy/moderate walk at Cwm George, Wrinstone and Michaelston; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

On December 30, meet at 10.30am at Castell Coch car park for a 5-mile mod/hard walk at Fforest Fawr and Craig yr Allt; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On December 31, meet at 10am at Cosmeston for a 4-mile easy circular walk taking in Sully and join the leaders for a warming cuppa afterwards in the café; contact Janet/John on 01446 418514.

On January 2, meet at 10am at the Barry Waterfront for a 5 or 6-mile easy/moderate walk, to celebrate the New Year, taking in Barry Island, the Old harbour and Porthkerry; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

For those new walkers who take part in a festival walk and who wish to join the Ramblers, as long as you are a new member and join using the direct debit scheme, you will be eligible for a £10 discount. Joining forms will be available on walks.

This weekend, sees an extra walk that is not in your programme. Meet at 9.45am at the Barry Waterfront for an 8-mile moderate walk to the north of Cowbridge, and at the leader's request - please wear or bring something along with a Christmas theme; contact Rachel on 01446 410545.

On December 19, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 9.5-mile moderate walk at Pontsticill and Cwm Callan; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

Please note that all walks at this time of year are subject to weather conditions and start points, mileage and location may be altered at short notice.

In inclement weather or if you are unsure of anything, please contact the leader for advice.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, please contact the walk leader for advice.

For other groups' walks, log onto www.ramblers.org.uk Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

The Ty Hafan lottery draw

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D648.

- **£2,000:** 741014.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £7,000, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 133107, 529220, 549863, 657854, 823860, 167441, 276239, 356224, 607626, 265583, 221699, 141690, 655349, 808568, 354499, 210259, 208559, 440631, 432206,111097.
- **£5:** 470647, 371802, 710232, 745831, 574697, 554850, 321233, 458744, 118284, 562335, 417628, 594449, 855631, 316947, 859828, 415866, 859723, 291735, 667811, 663263, 265277, 140724, 850672, 803991, 365001, 146309, 330651, 385143, 556759, 531022, 184678, 182152, 305063, 495123, 781503, 853078, 136555, 593373, 524816, 435868, 381440, 724245, 536072, 372595, 510276, 476062, 723828, 180485, 370698, 560365, 729230, 641077, 895244, 341508, 226222, 416104, 136738, 209819, 469743, 132549.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Free breast screening in town

MORE than 6,000 women will be offered a free, potentially life-saving screening test, when Breast Test Wales brings its mobile screening unit to the Barry area in January.

Sited at the Memorial Hall, the unit will offer free, high-quality breast screening by invitation only, to women aged 50 and above who are registered with local GP surgeries.

All women aged between 50 and 70 should automatically receive a postal invitation over the next few months if they are registered with the following GP surgeries: The Vale Family Practice, Ravenscourt Surgery and West Quay Medical Centre.

Women over 70 will not receive an automatic invitation, but can be screened on request by telephoning Breast Test Wales on 029 2039 7222 to make an appointment.

For further information about breast screening, visit the Breast Test Wales website at: www.screeningservices.org.uk/btw

Diolch to the lollipop man!

ROEDD disgyblion Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc wrth eu bodd pan glywon nhw fod eu dyn loli pop, Mr Steve Crabb wedi ennill 'Dyn Loli pop y flwyddyn' yn nhref Barri. Mae Mr Crabb wedi bod yn helpu ein plant i gyrraedd yr ysgol yn ddiogel ers 6 mlynedd nawr. Rydym yn falch iawn ohono ac eisiau diolch iddo am ei waith caled ym mhob tywydd. Diolch yn fawr, Mr Crabb.

PUPILS at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc were delighted to hear that their school patrol officer has won 'Barry School patrol officer of the year'.

Mr Crabb has been helping children cross the road safely for six years now. the school is extremely proud of him and would like to thank him for all his hard work. Thank you, Mr Crabb.

Youngsters' talent

I FEEL that I must write in and say a big thank you to local schools in my ward for firstly inviting me along and for putting on such wonderful performances for their Christmas concerts.

The two schools in question are Jenner Park Primary and Ysgol Maes Dyfan, who both did well this year with two spectacular performances.

Jenner Park School's performance was entitled 'Christmas around the World' which was both interesting and fun.

The children were absolutely superb and they did well in their various roles taking us around the world with some really good costume and song.

Ysgol Maes Dyfan's performance, 'A Cool Cymru Christmas,' was not only extremely professional but was out of this world.

We were treated to huge hits such as 'Goldfinger', 'What's New Pussycat' and 'All by Myself' and one of the stars on the show for me was definitely the young man flying though the air while singing 'Walking in the Air'.

A big thank you must only go out those who took part and the staff who must have worked tirelessly to put on such fine shows. Well done and best wishes for the future.

Councillor Richard Bertin, Barry

Santa drops in

A VERY special visitor arrived at Colcot Primary School on Tuesday.

Each pupil received a gift from Father Christmas (above) and conveyed their special wishes for Christmas.

The children then enjoyed a disco and tucked into party food.

It was a perfect end to a very busy term which also celebrated the school concerts, which were a huge success.

ST CYRES AWARD

St Cyres school's has been awarded a coveted ICT Mark, which recognises a high standard in the use of technology.

At the end of November, St Cyres undertook the assessment process and the school was delighted with the award.

MUSIC IN THE VALE'S 25th COMPETITION GIVES VIRTUOSOS A CHANCE TO SHINE!

AUDIENCES enjoyed a musical feast last weekend when Music in the Vale celebrated 25 years of its annual competition for young musicians with two concerts at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg in Barry.

After a long day of auditions on Saturday for the singers and on Sunday for the instrumentalists, the finalists performed in evening concerts, when the winners were decided.

On both days, the standard was high. The repertoire was varied, ranging from folk songs to operatic arias and the instruments were as diverse as harp, bassoon, saxophone, violin, cello, guitar, a triple ocarina (a very sophisticated recorder) as well as the piano.

On each evening there was also an ensemble competition, with two choirs of young singers from Llandaff Cathedral School competing on the Saturday and six instrumental ensembles on Sunday featuring saxophones, a piano trio, as well as a six-piece percussion band complete with sets of drums and xylophones!

Some of the musicians were as young as 10. The adjudicators were musicians Patricia O'Neill and Henry Newman for the singers, and Robin Stowell and Christopher Vale for the instrumentalists.

The young musicians came mainly from the Vale and Cardiff, although it was good to have new entrants from further afield. The competition is open to young people from eight to 21 and there are three classes, juniors, intermediates and seniors with an open class for the ensembles.

As Music in the Vale was celebrating 25 years of the competition, it was appropriate that Armando Tartaglia, one of the original founders of the competition, was able to present the Tartaglia Cup to the winners of the instrumental ensemble.

Full details of Music in the Vale, including details of the competition and future performance dates are available on the website www.musicinthevale.org.uk

ABOVE: Llandaff Cathedral's Junior Boys Choir, runners-up in the ensemble section.

Leanne Cody with Jane Hutt AM.

ABOVE: The finalists in the senior singers.

The winning Cantemus Choir.

ABOVE: The Celestial trio were the senior ensemble winners.

The finalists in the junior instrumental.

Llinos Hâf Picton Jones. with Coun Gordon Kemp.

Results

SINGERS: Junior: Winner – Lois Aled (Cowbridge); Runner-up – Guy Roberts (Cardiff); Finalists: Llinos Hâf Picton Jones (Penarth) and Seren Ffly^r Hamilton (Llantwit Major).

Intermediate: Winner – Rhydian Morgan Jenkins (Maesteg); Runner-up – Lisa Medi Williams (Cowbridge); Finalists – Michael McGrinder (Pontypridd) and Sophie Marielle Thomas (Llancarfan).

Senior: Winner – Grace Wain (Cardiff); Runner-up – Phillippa Scammell (Cardiff); Finalists – Heulen Melangell Cynfal (Cardiff) and Shoshana Pavett (Cardiff).

Most Promising Soloist (resident in the Vale of Glamorgan) - Llinos Hâf Picton Jones.

Ensemble: Winner – Cantemus (Llandaff Cathedral Mixed Junior Choir): Aofie Pryor, Ben Payne, Claudia Herbert, Evan Thomas, Francesca Hutchings, Jessica Norton, Lydia Morris, Megan Cronk, Oliver Piper, Oliver Popham, Olivia Curtis-Hughes, Thai Clements. Runner-up – Junior Boys Choir (Llandaff Cathedral School): Abhishek Deglurkar, Dominic Lazarevic-Saif, Evan Thomas, Fintan Roberts, Harri Lewis, Harry Toll, Henry Stoodley-Williamson, Nojan Chegounchi, Sam Staffurth, Samuel Griffin, Simeon Alcolado, Thomas Plaut.

INSTRUMENTALISTS: **Junior**: Winner – Charlie Lovell- Jones (Violin) (Cardiff); Runner-up – Nest Jenkins (Harp) (Aberystwyth); Finalists: Madeline Lloyd (Flute) (Penarth) and Gem Pipps (Violin) (Penarth).

Intermediate: Winner – Ben Tarlton (Cello) (Llantwit Major); Runner-up – Joseph Keenan (Saxophone) (Penarth); Finalists – Jennifer Marks (Piano) (Barry) and Isabella Kolaczynska (Violin) (Llanidloes).

Senior: Winner – Charlie Jean Clist (Violin) (Cowbridge); Runner-up – Leanne Cody (Piano) (Barry); Finalists – Daniel Gooch (Saxophone) (Cardiff) and Rebecca Eldridge (Bassoon) (Cardiff).

Most Promising Soloist (resident in the Vale of Glamorgan): Leanne Cody.

Ensembles: Winner – Celestial Trio: Alice Jackson (Piano), Charlie Jean Clist (Violin), Hannah Clist (Cello).

Runner-up – Asa Saxophone Quartet: Charlotte Treadway, Max Goldberg, Stephanie Batchelor, Verity Shortman.

Finalist – Labyrinth: Ben Treacher, Ellen Shipman, Gareth Humphreys, Victoria Rodge.

Finalist – Merthyr Tydfil Percussion Ensemble: Finbarr Canney, Michael Scott Youde, Oliver Lloyd Amesbury, Paisley Reeves Preece, Peter Phillips, Samuel Roper.

ABOVE: The Asa Saxophone Quartet.

The junior singers finalists.

The intermediate singer finalists.

ABOVE: The senior instrumentalist finalists.

The finalists in the intermediate instrumentalist competition.

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48

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£2,750
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49

54 Ford Focus Zetec 5-Dr
Pale blue, 20,731 miles, tax & MOT Jan 2011, VGC.
£4,000
01446 773117
49

2000 Nissan Micra 1.4 SE Auto 5-Dr
Purple metallic, one owner, only 37,000 miles, new MOT, 6 months tax, central locking, E/W, excellent condition throughout, illness forces reluctant sale.
£1,950
07894 233331
49

Xmas Greetings

Dilys Leyshon
wishes all her family and friends a Very Happy Christmas and Good Health in the New Year.
"God Bless"

To family and friends:
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from
Gareth Collier

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GEM Family Notices

Family Notices

Maurice Dwek
1927-2010

Brenda & family would like to thank the many people who attended the funeral, for the numerous letters and cards of sympathy, and also to Canon Derek Belcher & Father Julian for leading the very moving service. It has been a great comfort to us at this very sad time.

COLE
Thomas James

John and his family would like to thank Jim's relatives, friends and neighbours at Sigingstone for their support and messages of sympathy at this sad time.

A special thank you to the staff at Southway for their care and dedication, Reverend David Boult for his kindness and comfort, and Thomas Brothers for their professionalism.

IN MEMORY

GARY JONES
December 18th 2009

It's been a year since this beautiful man was stolen from our lives.
"Nothing beautiful in this world is ever really lost, all things loved live in our hearts forever."
Pam, Gill, Simon, Gabe and Taylor. *x*

WHITEHOUSE
John

The family would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral. We would also like to thank family and friends for their support to our father over the past months and for all the messages of sympathy. Special thanks also to Revd Julian Jenkins and Thomas Brothers.

HARRIS
Cliff

Peacefully on December 11 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Cliff of St Athan, beloved husband of the late Kathleen.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday December 21, service 11am at St Athan Church followed by interment in St Athan Cemetery.
Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

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Birthdays

Lauren Sweeney

Happy 21st Birthday
18th December 2010
'ALL GROWN UP'
Doing well on your year abroad - we are all proud of you.
Lots of love from Mum, Dad, Cameron, Nan & Grand. xxx

Congratulations

Congratulations
Andrew and Bev
on the birth of your
beautiful baby boy
Jayden Kevin Charlie
MAKER
Lots of love from
Nanny and Gramps Maker,
Nanny and Bampy Gifford

Anniversaries

Diamond Wedding Anniversary
Eric & Gwen Boorman
23rd December 2010

CONGRATULATIONS AND LOTS OF LOVE FROM YOUR FAMILY
Kath, Steve, Jessica, Daniel, Wendy, Martyn, Rhian, Andrew, Bethan, Lee and Erin.

Birth Notices

Congratulations and lots of love to
STUART AND MELISSA HUGHES
(née Jelinek) on the birth of

Violet Elise
December 12, 2010
7lb 81/2 oz.
First Grandchild for
Philip and Linda Jelinek

Thank You

Thanks Nigel, Marianne and family for my Surprise Birthday Party
Superb food at 'Oscars' Thank you Julian & staff.
Music & vocals: Jeff Hooper.
Thank you to everyone for my lovely cards and presents, and being so, so secretive.
How you did it is beyond me.
. . . Love you – Maureen Chick

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Public Notice

VALE OF GLAMORGAN LEGAL, PUBLIC PROTECTION & HOUSING SERVICES MARRIAGE ACT 1994 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

BRO MORGANNWG GWASANAETHAU CYFREITHIOL, AMDDIFFYN Y CYHOEDD A THAI DEDDF PRIODI 1994 A DEDDF PARTNERIAETH SIFIL 2004

Take notice that the above department has received the following application under the above Act from Vale of Glamorgan Hotel Ltd for Vale Resort, Hensol Park, Hensol, Vale of Glamorgan, CF72 8JY to be a premise approved as a venue for Marriage and Civil Partnership Ceremonies.

This application and associated plans are available for public inspection between 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU.

Any person wishing to object to the grant of this approval should write to the above address giving reasons for their objection within 21 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Peter H Evans
Director of Legal, Public Protection & Housing Services

Hysbysir drwy hyn fod yr adran a enwir uchod wedi derbyn cais o dan y Ddeddf uchod gan Vale of Glamorgan Hotel Cyf ar ran Vale Resort, Parc Hensol, Hensol, Bro Morgannwg, CF72 8JY i fod yn safle cymeradwy ar gyfer cynnal Seremoniau Priodas a Phartneriaeth Sifil.

Gall aelodau'r cyhoedd weld manylion y cais a'r cynluniau cysylltiedig rhwng 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener yn y Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Heol Holton, Y Barri CF63 4RU.

Os ydych chi'n dymuno gwrthwynebu'r cais hwn, dylech anfon gwrthwynebiad ysgrifenedig yn cynnwys rhesymau i'r cyfeiriad uchod cyn pen 21 diwrnod ar ôl cyhoeddi'r hysbysiad hwn.

Peter H Evans
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Amddiffyn y Cyhoedd a Thai

Vale AM backs plea to reinstate short breaks service for the disabled

ANGELA THOMAS and her daughter, Marnie, petitioned Vale AM, Jane Hutt, at her surgery about re-instating the short breaks service run by Action for Children for the Vale Council at Ty Robin Goch, Barry.

The AM met parents and carers using Ty Robin Goch at their recent protest at the Civic Offices and she wrote to the Vale Council to raise her concerns about the reduction in service from seven days to just four days a week.

Ms Hutt commented: "Short break services support disabled children and their families by giving disabled children and young people enjoyable experiences and respite for parents and carers.

"For the last three years, the Welsh Assembly Government has provided more than £1.5 million each year to local authorities throughout Wales to promote and improve short break services for disabled children, young people and their families.

"We are protecting social services through the Local Government Settlement recently announced. This protection means that funding for social services will increase in cash terms by £35m by 2013-14, representing a three per cent uplift."

She went on: "Provisions within the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 will place a statutory duty on local authorities to provide short breaks for disabled children and their families, and it comes into force next year.

"I am glad the scrutiny committee has taken this matter up and I trust the Vale Council will now consider re-instating this vitally important service in the Vale," the AM concluded.

Angela Thomas and her daughter Marnie meet the Vale AM.

Coity WI celebrate season of success!

NEW Age Kurling is getting popular with the ladies, and Ann Mutton and Mary Poland came a creditable fourth in the recent competitions at Bridgend Recreation Centre.

Mary Poland, president of Coity WI, has also had a great success at the GFWI competitions at the Royal Welsh winter fair, where she was awarded first prize in a class of 18 for her fruit cake.

Other activities in November included a stall at Gilead Chapel Christmas fair, a visit to Howell's of Cardiff for late night shopping, and supporting the Help for Heroes coffee morning at the home of Mr and Mrs John Dunlop of Coity.

The speaker at the monthly meeting was Christine Seaman, who gave a beautifully illustrated talk on her life as a ballerina.

December opened with the Christmas dinner, held this year in the Church Hall.

The group carol service was held at St Mary's, Coity, with a service of lessons and carols prepared by Rev Sue Beverly. Lessons and seasonal poems were read by representatives of each of the WIs in the Link and the singing was accompanied by the organist and choir of Coity Church.

The Christmas season was further celebrated as some members took part in the Christmas Tree Festival at Nolton Church, and were delighted to find that we had won the overall prize, judged by Madeleine Moon MP.

The WI tree represented 'Baby's First Christmas', a traditional Nativity theme given a contemporary twist with hand-knitted booties and mitts – alongside the gold, frankincense and myrrh.

2010 A 'FANTASTIC YEAR'

Success for young Barry gymnasts

Barry novice gymnasts.

2010 has been a fantastic year for Barry YMCA gymnasts and their good fortunes continued when 20 competed at the Welsh Novice Championships.

In the 12/13 years category, Catrin Megan Davies did very well. Despite a fall on beam, she still took second in the overall event. In the individual apparatus, she placed first in both the beam and floor event, and also claimed a sixth place for vault.

In the 10/11 age group, her training mates had similar success. Ellice Stockford took the silver medal in the overall category in the 10 years event and also third place ribbons for vault and beam.

Her training partner, Chelsea Slack, also gained an individual apparatus ribbon, placing fourth on floor while Catrin Long was sixth on the beam.

Megan Brown, Nia Fenn, Ellie Peterson, Chloe Sullivan and Seren Mirza Davies also had a successful time in this age group.

Barry were represented by 11 gymnasts in the 8/9 years category and it was an exciting time for them, competing in front of a large audience. They made their parents and coaches very proud.

In the nine years category, it was a particularly successful day for the gymnasts on bars. Tia Ali placed third, Sophie Birkin fourth and Ffion Jackson sixth.

Not to be outdone, Megan Sully and Sophie Birkin both took sixth place ribbons on floor, while Tia Ali claimed a fourth place ribbon.

Tesni Gardiner was fifth on floor in the eight years category while Lucy Miles was fifth on floor. Gabriella Hooley, Elisha Watkins, Kelsey Dawe and Freya Parker also performed well in the event.

Some of Barry's older gymnasts competed in the Welsh Challenge Cup event recently. Caitlin Allin, Emma Worrall and Olivia Parry competed in the 14+ age group where there were multiple successes as the team claimed the gold medal, and Olivia Parry claimed the overall individual title as well as vault, beam and floor. She placed third on bars.

Caitlin and Emma both did extremely well in their first year at this level of competition. Caitlin placed fifth overall, fifth on beam and floor and sixth on bars. Emma placed seventh overall, fourth on floor and fifth on bars.

Nia Davies and Alana Stokes competed in the high level 10/11 years category. They both successfully performed a number of new skills and showed good concentration and poise.

There was a large representative of Barry gymnasts at the South Area Championships where the team of Olivia Parry, Caitlin Allin and Emma Worrall claimed team gold in the 14+ Challenge Cup.

Olivia won the individual all around title, as well as vault and bars, and silver on floor and bronze on beam.

Caitlin placed second overall, second on bars and beam and third on floor. Emma placed third overall and third on vault and bars.

Catrin Megan Davies claimed the individual title in the 12/13 novice event with first on beam and bars, second on floor and vault.

In the 10/11 years category, Alana Stokes placed 10th overall.

Chelsea Slack became the bars champion in the novice 10/11 category and placed fourth overall, while her training partner Ellice Stockford claimed bronze on vault. The 10/11 team of Ellice, Chelsea, Megan Brown and Ellie Peterson claimed the bronze medal.

Chloe Sullivan, Seren Mirza Davies and Catrin Long also performed well in this age group.

Barry Red team of Elisha Watkins, Freya Parker, Sophie Birkin and Tia Ali claimed the bronze medal in the 8/9 years event, while Elisha claimed a bronze on beam, Freya a silver on bars and Tia Dewitt silver on floor.

Well done also to Tesni Gardiner, Lucy Miles, Kelsey Dawe, Gabriella Hooley, Megan Sully and Ffion Jackson.

Bronze for Kiera

A TOTAL of 59 gymnasts from 12 nations recently made their way to Tshwane (Republic of South Africa) where the 2010 Bumbo Gymnastics Cup was taking place.

Barry YMCA member Kiera Brennan was among those, as she was selected to represent Wales at the event. She showed just why she is a member of the Welsh Gymnastics Academy and British squad when she claimed the overall bronze medal in this high profile event.

Kiera has had a successful competitive year, becoming the UK School Games Floor champion and claiming the bronze medal on bars at the British Championships.

She needed to be in great form at this international tournament, as it was attended by some of the world's best coaches and future potential Olympians, including two Americans, one of whom placed second at the USA National Championships. She went on to take the all around title at the Bumbo Cup.

Kiera kept her composure throughout the competition and was justifiably proud, standing on the third place spot on the medal rostrum.

Her excellent performances in the event gained her coveted spaces in the vault, bars and beam finals where she placed fifth on both the vault and beam and sixth on bars.

Congratulations to Kiera and coach Tracey Skirton, the Welsh National Coach, who teaches Kiera at the Welsh Gymnastics Academy.

KD

ABOVE: Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Coun Colin Osborne and his wife Ruby with representatives from the Vale of Glamorgan Referees' Society.

Vale referees honoured with a Barry Town Hall reception

THE Vale Mayor and Mayoress, Coun Colin Osborne and his wife Ruby, were pleased to host a reception at the Town Hall for members of the Vale of Glamorgan Referees' Society.

The mayor was pleased to accept the society's offer to be a patron of the society for the current year.

For more information on the referees' society, visit their website at www.footballreferee.org/web/VoGRS.

Imps progress in high-quality cup match-up

FOLLOWING a long period of no games due to the adverse weather, the highly anticipated under-15s cup quarter final match between the league's top two teams finally took place when Cadoxton visited Llantwit.

Llantwit started the brighter and took a deserved lead after their early pressure paid off, giving the Imps a wake up call.

The game then opened up and solid defensive work from Jo Robinson, Tom Dyball, Jacob Burgess and an outstanding performance from Gage Waller ensured Imps got to half time with all to play for.

Energetic midfield displays from Louis Burrows, Izaak Farrag, Sam Beck and a superb performance from Ashley Cottle kept Llantwit on their toes, while Callum Harding worked tirelessly up front.

After the break, a few genius managerial changes were made and the introduction into the midfield of the excellent Ben Pearce and Dan Morgan brought the Imps right back into the game.

It was only a matter of time before they drew level, with a precision pass from Dan Morgan setting up Jordan Williams to tuck away a fantastic goal in the bottom corner.

There was major debate on the journey home as to who scored the winning goal, with Izaak Farrag hitting the initial shot that appeared to cross the line, and Jordan Williams making sure it hit the back of the net. Andy Gray can sort that one out!

With solid performances from Kieran Ashton and Kieran Thomas, the Imps managed to stay on top, Dan Morgan smashing a shot against the bar in the closing stages.

There was nearly one last twist in the tail though and like any good side, Llantwit never gave up. With the last kick of the game they nearly equalised, had it not been for Sam Rees Davies, diving full stretch to his left to produce a moment of pure brilliance to secure a semi-final place.

A spokesman for the Imps said: "We are very proud of the lads today, they worked incredibly hard, particularly in the second half, against a very well organised and good footballing side."

JH

John 'batters' the cod in SAC Christmas match

DOW CORNING Sea Angling Club held its annual Christmas end-of-season shore match on Cold Knap beach.

Despite the Arctic conditions, 14 members turned out to fish for the elusive big one, and it was newcomer, John Batt, who managed to beat us with the heaviest bag.

He caught a codling of 3lbs 6ozs and a whiting for a total weight of 4lbs.

Second was another new boy, Gareth Thorne. He had a codling and a whiting for 2lbs 14ozs. Third was ex-Welsh international Gerald John with 2lbs 12ozs of whiting.

Other positions were: 4th, D West – 1lb 14ozs; 5th, B Carter – 1lb 1oz; 6th, G Griffiths – 14ozs; J Preece, V Sjodin 10ozs; and 9th, J Little with 6ozs.

The club would like to thank the following people for their kind donations: Aspinall's Angling Supplies, Barry Angling, LME, SAMAT, SHS, Unity and Ray 'the lug'. Thanks also to Ben at Gordon Bennetts.

This year saw the club increase with a few more members and it was these boys who showed us how to do it.

Top shore angler was Gareth Griffiths. He also won the boat league (his father taught him well). Second was John Batt on the shore and Dave Davey on the boat.

Gareth had the biggest fish off the shore with a 14lb smoothound and John Little's 28lb tope was the biggest on the boat.

Best specimen was Martyn Anthony's superb 24lb common smoothound.

Brothers Matt and Dave West, Vince Sjodin and I had a fantastic week's fishing in Norway, catching nearly 400 cod, 17 halibut, coalfish, torsk, redfish, haddock, whiting, herring and flatfish. The best cod was 30lbs and best halibut 85lbs.

I would recommend any keen angler to save his pennies and give it a go!

Next season starts in January and we hope for a good year as the cod fishing has seen a steady improvement of late – so long may it continue.

The club would like to wish all fishermen a merry Christmas and a plentiful bag of fish new year.

JOHN LITTLE

TUDOR LANDS ROYAL WINNER

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

COWBRIDGE'S James Tudor rode his first winner of the 2010/11 point-to-point season when scoring on Alan Hill's *Start Royal* in the men's open race at the Cambridge University United Hunts meeting at Cottenham on Sunday, writes Brian Lee.

Start Royal, owned and trained by Alan Hill, was well backed at 5-4 in a field of just five runners.

Red Watch, a nine-year-old brown gelding owned and trained by Luke Price, and qualified with the Taf Fechan Hunt, took the restricted race at the Cornwall Hunt Club meeting at Wadebridge under Wales's Jodie Hughes.

Red Watch went off the 9-4 favourite.

CALLING ALL CLUBS!

Send us your club news, reports and other items of interest. Email *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

BARRY RFC NORTH BERWICK LATEST TOUR INFORMATION

This season sees the resumption of Barry Rugby Club's North Berwick connection and it is essential that potential tourists note the last date for all outstanding payments is this Saturday (December 18). Payment can be made to Andy Jamieson or Carol at the bar.

Those who miss this deadline will miss the tour, as their place will be taken by the next person on the reserve list. Andy has been advised that every traveller will need to present a valid UK passport at the airport and that no other form of ID is acceptable. Since a full passenger list is required by early January please ensure that your passport details are available at that time.

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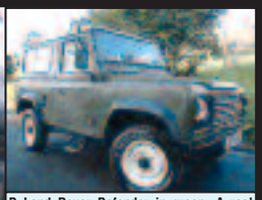

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FAMILY

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07 **57 SEAT Altea XL 1.9 TDi Stylance** in metallic ruby red with stylance grey interior, rear parking sensors, cd, climate control, cruise control, aux input, only 49,100 miles **£8,495**

07 **57 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 16v Breeze 5-Dr MPV.** In Black sapphire with charcoal interior, reversing sensors, CD, air con, privacy glass, only 23,580 miles **£6,495**

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07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.** In mercury silver with carbon sport interior, air con, CD, front fogs, alarm, only 15,060 miles **£6,495**

06 **56 DODGE Caliber 2.0 TD SXT 5-dr Hatchback.** In bright silver clearcoat with Pastel slate grey leather interior, air con, multi CD, cruise control, traction control system, only 42,230 miles **£6,995**

06 **56 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 VVT Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.** In quartz with laser charcoal interior, air con, CD, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, only 32,000 miles **£5,495**

06 **06 MAZDA 6 2.0TF TS2 (143 bhp) 5-dr hatchback** in Pacific blue with black sports interior, multi CD, Bose sound system, cruise conrol, climate control, only 73,000 miles **£5,495**

06 **06 AUDI A4 2.0 TDi S Line.** In brilliant red with black mondial interior, climate control, aluminium trim strips, multi CD, 18" alloy wheels, service history, only 73,400 miles..... **£10,995**

05 **54 AUDI A3 1.6 Special Edition 3-dr Hatchback.** In black with charcoal interior, CD, front fogs, climate control, alloy wheels, one owner only 60,300 miles **£6,995**

05 **54 CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.6 SX 5-dr Estate.** In imperial blue with grey interior, a/con, cd, electric windows, body coloured bumpers, only 30,700 miles..... **£3,495**

05 **05 HONDA Civic 1.7 CDTi** in magnetic blue with hatch fabric interior, alloy wheels, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 55,130 miles **£5,995**

04 **54 CITROEN C3 stop&start 1.4 5-dr Automatic Hatchback.** In silver with blue velour interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, only 29,920 miles **£3,695**

04 **04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon.** Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles **£5,995**

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SMALL

08 **58 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE+ 5-dr Hatchback.** In mighty blue with grey interior, air con, central locking, CD, front electric windows, ISOFIX, only 26,560 miles **£3,995**

08 **58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Design (A/C).** 5 door in ice blue with dark interior, air con, MP3 input, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, only 19,950 miles **£7,995**

08 **58 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0SE+ 5-Dr Hatchback.** In poly silver with blue/black interior, air con, central locking, CD, colour coded bumpers, power steering, only 26,750 miles..... **£3,995**

08 **08 CITROEN C1 1.0i Rhythm 5-dr Hatchback** in Caldera black with black interior, electric front windows, p/steering, CD, centre rear seat belt, 1 owner, £35 a year road tax, only 18,100 miles..... **£5,995**

08 **08 FORD KA Studio.** In panther black with cascade interior, immobiliser, CD, drivers airbag, central locking, only 32,349 miles..... **£4,495**

07 **57 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 M:Play 3-dr Hatchback.** In flamenco red with Talucan black interior, air con, CD with aux input, front fogs, immobiliser, only 41,980 miles **£5,995**

05 **55 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TD Studio 3-dr hatchback** in moondust silver with intro midnight cloth interior, power steering, colour coded bumpers, CD, £30 a year road tax, low mileage **£3,995**

07 **07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2i 16v life (a/c) 3-dr hatchback easy tronic.** In metro blue with punch cloth charcoal interior, electric mirrors, air con, immobiliser, service history, only 17,900 miles **£5,495**

06 **56 NISSAN Micra 1.2 16v Sport 3-dr Hatchback** in metallic silver with charcoal interior, air con, alloy wheels, multi cd, body coloured bumpers, only 31,600 miles **£4,995**

05 **55 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0i 12v Life 3-dr Hatchback.** In purple spell with Orleans charcoal interior, CD, power steering, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 29,820 miles **£3,495**

04 **54 MINI 1.6 Cooper (Pepper pack) 3-dr Hatchback.** In purple with white roof, black interior, 8 spoke alloy wheels, a/c, cd, front fogs, e/front windows, only 39,760 miles **£6,995**

04 **54 FIAT Punto 1.2 8v 3-dr hatchback.** In crystal green with grey tek interior, electric front windows, power steering, colour coded bumpers, only 34,500 miles **£2,995**

04 **04 FORD Ka 1.6 Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** Magnum grey with streetline dark interior, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, electric windows, alloy wheels, CD, only 40,955 miles **£3,495**

03 **53 MINI One 1.6 3-dr hatchback** in indie blue with anthracite/panther black interior, alloy wheels, chrome mirror caps, electric panoramic glass r oof, only 71,000 miles **£5,995**

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10	**CHEVROLET Aveo 1.4 LT 5-dr Auto.** In red, 4,000 miles, fantastic value at	£6,995
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07	**RENAULT Scenic 1.6 VVTi Dynamic.** In met grey, 10,000 miles, 1 owner . REDUCED BY £500 TO	£5,995
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04	**VW Golf 1.9 TDi SE 3-dr** in silver, 40,000 miles, alloys, a/c, etc	£5,995
08	**FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Dynamic 5-dr.** In black, 34,000 miles with a/c, alloys, etc	£5,695
58	**CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.6 SXi Estate Auto.** In Met Blue, 9,000 miles, under manufacturers warranty	£5,495
56	**MITSUBISHI Lancer 1.6 Elegance Automatic.** In met blue with black leather, 37,000 miles	£4,995
06	**SKODA Fabia Ambiente 16v 5-dr.** In met gold, 25,000 miles, local car with a/c etc	£4,995
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06	**VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 Life** In silver, 40,000 miles with CD, A/C etc.	£4,995
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57	**SMART Four Two 1.0 Passion Automatic (New Model).** In silver with cd, a/c, alloys, £30 road tax	£4,695
56	**SMART FourTwo 700 Passion Automatic Convertible.** Silver with black leather, heated seats, a/c.	£4,695
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06	**MITSUBISHI Colt 1.2 C2i 3-dr.** Light met-blue, 1 owner, CD, e/w, c/l . REDUCED BY £1000 TO	£2,995
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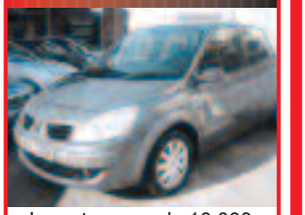
04	**RENAULT Clio Authentique.** In black, 73,935 miles, c/l, e/w, c/d.	£2,695
51	**FORD Focus 2.0 Ghia 4-Dr.** In met black, 75,000 miles, 1 owner example with A/C etc.	£2,695

06 Ford Focus 1.6LX 5-dr

In met blue, 44,000 miles, ideal family hatch with a/c, cd
£4,995

07 Renault Scenic 1.6 VVTi Dynamic



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End of year success for Vale Karate group

THE year has ended with a bang for Vale Karate with three weekends full of drama!

On November 21, The Welsh Bushi-Kai staged their first invitational tournament for more than a year, due to the fire at their base at Port Talbot's Afan Lido last year.

Bridgend Recreation and Leisure Centre was the venue.

A strong Vale Karate squad entered and emerged with plenty of silverware. Established squad members such as Gareth Reynolds, Kloe Christoforato and Ewan Albright all took gold medals, but there was evidence too of continuing development as many newer faces came to prominence.

Of particular note was the newly established under-10 boys team where nine-year-olds Will Hellerman, Owain Harrhy and Josh Dwyer joined Ewan to take their first title.

Ewan, already a four-time Welsh champion, had earlier won both his individual Kata and Kumite events, going home with three gold medals.

A week later on November 28, Weston-super-Mare was the venue when more than 600 competitors attended the Western Karate Union's winter invitational.

With many of Vale Karate's squad opting for a day off, medals were scarcer; nevertheless, once again Vale Karate's newer faces showed their potential.

Finnian O'Donovan, at only five years old, was The Vale's youngest entrant, and amazed everyone by winning two medals, including his first title!

Finnian, a pupil at Barry's Romilly Primary School, who celebrates his sixth birthday later this month, began training as a three-and-a-half year old in Vale Karate's 'Tigers' classes.

In Weston, Finnian entered both the 5-7 years fighting event, and the 5-7 years junior Shobu Jukúren. This is a development event, with children from 5-7 striking a stationary dummy, with judges determining a winner.

Against competitors up to two years older, Finnian demonstrated his skill by taking the gold medal. He failed by the narrowest of margins to take another gold in the Kumite, again against older children, settling for silver, with team-mate Christopher Slack taking a bronze.

Chris' medal was his second of the day as he'd earlier won a bronze in the under-8 Kata, joining team-mate Georgia Hellerman, who won silver, on the podium.

Saturday, December 4 was an eagerly-awaited day for no fewer than 15 Vale karate members, whose previous years of training culminated in the biggest test of many of their lives as they attempted to earn their black belts.

Twelve youngsters, all aged between 12 and 14 years, were attempting their junior black belts with two adults attempting their senior First Dan and one attempting Second Dan.

Chief instructor and grading examiner Rob Copeland said: "All 15 candidates were fully aware and ready for the task ahead and applied themselves admirably, with all passing with flying colours."

A footnote to this success story is that five of the new junior black belts: Lauren Beeslee, Nikita Denner, Megan Coles, Shellie May and Paige Williams all began Karate when Rob Copeland launched his after-school karate project in September 2006. Lauren was in Victoria Primary in Penarth, Nikita and Megan in St Athan and Shellie and Paige in St Nicholas.

ABOVE: Dan grading.
BELOW: Finnian O'Donovan.

For more information on Vale Karate telephone 0790 4582123, email: robert@valekarate.com or visit www.valekarate.com

BARRIVALE BRIDGE NEWS

Two members of the winning club championship teams, Jane Brook and Kay Dyer with the David Martyn Cup. The remainder of the team was Betty Lewis, Irene Thomas and Mike Close.

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club are from November 30:

First, Denis Mottram and Noelle Bond 56.25 per cent; second, Alan Jones and Lyn Matthews 55.21; third, Dave Thomas and Tom Kendrick 53.75.

Vivien Liles and Hilary Laurence won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. *For more information, telephone 01446 733425.*

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165/70R13 Bridgestone B250	£48.00	£91	£175	165/70R13 Avon ZT5	£38.00	£75	£145	165/70R13 Nova	£32.00	£59	£115
175/70R14 Bridgestone B250	£62.00	£118	£225	175/70R14 Avon ZT5	£49.00	£95	£180	175/70R14 Nova	£35.00	£65	£120
175/65R14 Bridgestone B250	£53.00	£99	£185	175/65R14 Avon ZT5	£41.00	£79	£150	175/65R14 Nova	£37.00	£69	£130

PERFORMANCE TYRES FROM £36.55

Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
185/60R14 Bridgestone EP300	£58.00	£110	£205	185/60R14 Avon ZV3	£49.00	£95	£180	185/60R14 Nova	£37.00	£69	£130
185/65R14 Bridgestone B250	£69.00	£130	£250	185/65R14 Avon ZV3	£53.00	£102	£195	185/65R14 Travel	£36.00	£68	£128
185/65R15 Bridgestone EP300	£77.00	£149	£285	185/65R15 Avon ZV3	£57.00	£109	£210	185/65R15 Nova	£42.00	£79	£149
195/65R15 Bridgestone B250	£85.00	£125	£240	195/65R15 Avon ZV3	£52.00	£100	£190	195/65R15 Nova	£43.00	£80	£150

HIGH PERFORMANCE TYRES FROM £40.96

Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
195/50R15 Bridgestone EP300	£56.00	£105	£199	195/50R15 Avon ZV3	£49.00	£95	£180	195/50R15 Falkenay	£40.00	£75	£140
195/60R15 Bridgestone EP300	£79.00	£149	£280	195/60R15 Avon ZV5	£63.00	£120	£230	195/60R15 Federal	£47.00	£88	£169
195/65R15 Bridgestone EP300	£86.00	£125	£240	195/65R15 Avon ZV5	£54.00	£101	£195	195/65R15 Falkenay	£44.00	£82	£158
205/55R16 Bridgestone EP300	£76.00	£145	£275	205/55R16 Avon ZV5	£65.00	£125	£240	205/55R16 Federal	£58.00	£110	£210

ULTRA HIGH PERFORMANCE TYRES FROM £52.51

Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
205/50R16 Bridgestone EP300	£106.00	£205	£390	205/50R16 Avon ZV5	£78.00	£149	£285	205/50R16 Nova	£52.00	£99	£190
205/55R16 Bridgestone EP300	£82.00	£155	£295	205/55R16 Avon ZV5	£68.00	£129	£245	205/55R16 Nova	£54.00	£105	£199
225/45R17 Bridgestone RE050	£110.00	£210	£399	225/45R17 X.L. Avon ZV5	£90.00	£175	£335	225/45R17 Nova	£60.00	£110	£210
225/40R18 X.L. Bridgestone RE050	£140.00	£270	£530	225/40R18 X.L. Avon ZV5	£106.00	£199	£385	225/40R18 Falkenay	£54.00	£102	£199

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GEM sport

BARRY ARE BACK WITH AN IMPORTANT VICTORY AFTER LONG LAY-OFF

AFTER what seems an age of ice, snow, late opposition withdrawals and southern hemisphere invaders, the gritty business of Welsh rugby was resumed last Saturday.

On the warmest day for many weeks, Barry entertained a side very close to them in the league in a 'must win' game for both clubs.

Understandably, they each showed the effects of the long lay-off, but the home 15 exhibited the better tactics by using superior possession and territory to put pressure on the visiting defence. Not very exciting but very effective!

Against the run of the play, the visitors gained the lead after 15 minutes with a well-taken penalty. Buoyed by this success, Nantymoel attacked with a series of forward drives and three-quarter movements, spearheaded by a particularly penetrative full-back.

Good defending was given its full reward when Barry swung into the attack just before the interval as the Barry forwards set up a series of blistering attacks in midfield. It was now the turn of the Nantymoel defence to show its mettle, but it cracked to allow a Haskell close-range try, duly converted from under the posts.

BARRY RFC	**17**
NANTYMOEL	**3**

The value of this score was immense in that it gave Barry a buffer with which to start the second period, but it also demonstrated their determination and cohesion to weather the occasional storm.

The second half began with the visitors clearly having an eye on the bottom corner of the pitch. However, they seemed to overdo this tactic and lost sight of the objective of playing more direct rugby.

Their cause was not helped by unnecessary use of the boot, not necessarily with the ball in mind, and the increasing influence of the fitness of the home side.

With play breaking up, the strength of the home back row in particular posed all sorts of problem for Nantymoel.

The Barry eight now turned the screw and put the away side's line under continuous pressure for long periods.

A deserved victory was secured with another close-range try, which was converted from a wide angle by Cummings.

Each player and coach deserves congratulations for getting this season back on track with a very commendable performance. They showed confidence in themselves as individuals and a willingness to work as a team.

Although this was primarily a team effort, particular plaudits must go to Ryan, Lee and Evans in the backs along with Haskell, Brown and Hollister in the forwards.

Next week, Barry travel to St Joseph's at Blackweir in a league fixture and the team needs and deserves your support.

(See important information on the club tour of North Berwick on page 26)

CO

The Sports make domination pay

SULLY travelled to Pencoedtre having not played for several weeks, hoping to carry on with another win.

SULLY SPORTS	**3**
CADOXTON ATHLETIC	**0**

Sully again found themselves short of numbers with a few players out, but manager Alun Owen and assistant Rhyd James still had a strong 13 players to pick from.

Sully dominated the early play, with Cadoxton struggling to get out of their half. Early chances fell to Jaime Lamb and new signing Les Harrington, but Sully couldn't get the goal their dominance deserved.

Sam Hulland, playing in a new role on the right hand side, saw lots of the ball and produced many crosses.

A run down the right saw the left back bring Sam down, resulting in a freekick in line with the penalty spot.

Spencer Lamb lined up the kick and delivered a cross into the box, and up rose Jaime to head into the bottom corner. Sully one up!

Sully continued their dominance with their back four of Joe McCann, Kevin Ball, Karl Kavanagh and Alan Humphries looking solid. They found themselves two up when good work down the left by Ryan Lamb, played in Spencer, whose left foot cross deceived the 'keeper and flew straight in.

Sully finished the half the same way they started, with most of the possession.

The half-time talk for Sully emphasised that another goal was needed to kill the game off.

After a bad miss, Sully finally got that third goal. A penalty was awarded for a foul on Sam Hulland. Up stepped Spencer, who had missed his last penalty, but even though the 'keeper got a hand to it, too much power made sure it ended it the back of the net.

Sully continued to push in search of a fourth goal and almost got it in the final few moments when a great run from Wesley through the middle of the park, skipping through three players, picked out Sam, who saw his low shot tipped wide by a great save by the 'keeper.

Sully team: Ben Gillespie, Joe McCann, Kevin Ball, Alan Humphries, Sam Hulland, Wesley Lamb, Spencer Lamb, Ryan Dodd, Jaime Lamb, Les Harrington, Daf Brown, manager Alan Owen, assistant manager Rhydian James.

Man of the match: Spencer Lamb.

JL

Dinas dumped out of Cup by neighbours

ONLY five of the 15 scheduled cup games were played in the second round of the Nathaniel League Cup, with the cold weather putting paid to the rest, and Dinas may wish that this game had gone the same way.

ELY RANGERS	**3**
DINAS POWYS	**0**

You couldn't fault any Dinas player for lack of effort but Rangers fully deserved to go through to the third round.

It took nearly 20 minutes for the game to spring to life and it was the home side who had the first effort on goal when Neil Coleman weaved his way into the left side of the area before driving the ball to the near post, but 'keeper Richard Jeffries got down well to push the ball round the post for a corner.

A minute later, Coleman fired wide before Dinas were awarded a free-kick 25 yards from the Rangers goal. Mike Hayward's effort forced Ian Davies in the Rangers goal into a diving save, with his defence completing the clearance.

A couple of minutes later, Hayward did well on the left and played the ball inside for Kristian Diamond, and his 20-yard shot was saved by 'keeper Davies. The visitors nearly fell behind on the half-hour when a suicidal pass gave Richard Greaves a shooting opportunity, but he struck the post when he really should have scored.

The Rangers 'keeper needed two attempts to hold Hayward's shot from outside the area before the home side took the lead. Neil Coleman switched wings to put in a good cross from the right and Richard Greaves was on hand to tap in from just five yards.

The visitors had the opportunity to equalise when a Mike Hayward cross to the far post found Kristian Diamond, but Davies did well to get a hand to his header to concede a corner.

Within five minutes of the start of the second half, the game was effectively over. A Rangers corner was initially cleared but when the ball was hit back into the area, 'keeper Richard Jeffries attempted to catch the ball but under challenge it fell to Graham Fundalski, who had a simple chance to score from eight yards.

Richard Greaves got his second goal of the afternoon when a long ball out of defence saw him get to it just before the Dinas 'keeper, and the ball ran for him to score from eight yards.

Dinas brought on three substitutes but despite their endeavour, they were unable to fight their way back into the game and, weather allowing, can look forward to meeting Croesyceiliog in the league at The Murch next Saturday.

Squad: 1, Richard Jeffries, 2, Rhodri Foote, 3, Ben Dimond, 4, Stephen Provis, 5, Michael Brooks, 6, Jon Carpentier, 7, Liam Jones, 8, Geza Hajgato, 9, Kristian Diamond, 10, Gareth Tedstone, 11, Michael Hayward. Subs: 12, Gareth Shaw, 14, Ricki Morgan, 15, Mark Dunford.

MW

Barry athlete makes south Wales squad

Ysobelle Williams.

A GIRL from Barry, Ysobelle Williams, is enjoying success in the recent Cardiff and Vale McCain school cross country challenges.

Ysobelle is 11 years old, and is in year-7 at Bishop of Llandaff School in Cardiff. She ran in her age group – and an age group above – and in both groups she has maintained a place in the top 10.

She has now been selected to represent south Wales under-13s, in a team of eight and has also been selected to compete in January in the McCain's school championships in Wales.

A school spokeswoman said: "Bishop of Llandaff is very proud and excited to have a year-7 pupil represent south Wales."

Ysobelle also competes in the Arthur Llewellyn League, representing Barry Harriers, were she has been a member for four years.

She trains at Jenner Park and at school, and also takes part in local 5k charity runs to maintain fitness

Cadoxton Imps put in a five-star performance

THE Imps were four goals up after just 25 minutes, courtesy of a hat-trick from Gavin Lewis, and one straight from a corner from man-of-the-match Gareth Evans.

Cadoxton Imps	**5**
Cogan	**1**

Despite this, Cogan did not give up and pulled one back on the half hour and then had a penalty saved athletically by Imps' keeper Dean Clarke.

Veteran Mike Cutajar then scored number five with a fine finish, only for it to be ruled out.

Imps' back four of Rhys Tinsley, Logan Gardener, Dave Hazlewood and Ryan Pike dealt effectively with the skillful Cogan attack.

The second half started with Imps pushing forward with some excellent interplay from midfield duo Evans and Johnson, with passes allowing 16-year-old wingers Mathew Chapman and Daniel Chaulke to get behind the Cogan defence to create some great chances.

As in the first half, Cogan never gave up and were rewarded with a second goal from a poorly defended corner on the hour.

Imps reply was quick and clinical, when Chaulke was put through by a defence-splitting pass from full back Pike to coolly slot home goal number five.

Cogan pulled back a consolation, following which substitutes James Crane and Shaun Lee were brought on to bolster the Imps through the last 10 minutes.

This was a great performance from the Imps as the same Cogan team put nine past them in the first week of the season, and shows that when players make themselves available, the team can compete effectively.

Imps management would like to thank a sporting Cogan outfit and also referee Mark Harvey who handled the game superbly.

ST

Holton pupils meet their Bluebird football heroes

IT was a great day when the football team from Holton Primary School met Cardiff City's first team.

The team was involved in the Community Cup, which was being held at Cardiff City's training ground.

The City players were at the ground training before the competition got under way, and signed autographs and had photos taken.

Holton Primary would like to say thank you to the organisers of the competition for a great day, and to the Cardiff City players for making some young aspiring footballers very happy!

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